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Rat cauda epididymal fluid is a mucus

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Immobilin, the highly viscoelastic glycoprotein isolated from rat cauda epididymal fluid, exhibits all of the key biochemical characteristics of a mucin: 1) it has a very high molecular weight (will not pass through a 10(6) dalton cut-off filter; 2) it contains 56% carbohydrate, with low or undetectable levels of mannose, xylose and uronic acid; 3) the carbohydrates (primarily galactose, N-acetylglucosamine and N-acetylgalactosamine) are arranged in short, oligosaccharide chains (4-20 monosaccharides per chain); 4) these oligosaccharide chains can be cleaved by NaOH in the presence of NaBH₄, suggesting O-glycosidic linkages; and 5) the protein core is pronase-resistant. Immobilin, however, contains no detectable sialic acid, and 67% of the oligosaccharides are uncharged, indicating that immobilin is less acidic than most other mucins.

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