

RESEARCH MONOGRAPH . COMPOUND PROFILE

GHRP-6

A first-generation hexapeptide ghrelin receptor agonist with prominent appetite stimulation, often used as a research-grade alternative to ipamorelin.

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AUTHOR	Kodiac biolabs Research
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ABSTRACT

GHRP-6 (His-D-Trp-Ala-Trp-D-Phe-Lys-NH₂; CAS 87616-84-0; molecular formula C₄₆H₅₆N₁₂O₆; molecular weight 873.02) is a first-generation hexapeptide ghrelin receptor agonist. The compound stimulates GH release with kinetics similar to GHRP-2 but produces more pronounced cortisol and prolactin elevation, which has limited its clinical development. GHRP-6 also produces marked appetite stimulation through ghrelin pathway activation, an effect that distinguishes it from later GHRPs and that may be either useful (cachexia, sarcopenia adjunct) or unwanted (weight management contexts) depending on the application.

Pharmacokinetics: plasma half-life 15 to 60 minutes; parenteral administration only. Research-grade doses are typically 100 to 300 micrograms subcutaneously per administration.

1. Compound Identification

GHRP-6 is described as growth hormone releasing peptide / ghrelin receptor agonist. A first-generation hexapeptide ghrelin receptor agonist with prominent appetite stimulation, often used as a research-grade alternative to ipamorelin.

1.1 Class summary

Growth hormone releasing peptide / ghrelin receptor agonist

1.2 Subtitle

A first-generation hexapeptide ghrelin receptor agonist with prominent appetite stimulation, often used as a research-grade alternative to ipamorelin.

2. Abstract

GHRP-6 (His-D-Trp-Ala-Trp-D-Phe-Lys-NH₂; CAS 87616-84-0; molecular formula C₄₆H₅₆N₁₂O₆; molecular weight 873.02) is a first-generation hexapeptide ghrelin receptor agonist. The compound stimulates GH release with kinetics similar to GHRP-2 but produces more pronounced cortisol and prolactin elevation, which has limited its clinical development. GHRP-6 also produces marked appetite stimulation through ghrelin pathway activation, an effect that distinguishes it from later GHRPs and that may be either useful (cachexia, sarcopenia adjunct) or unwanted (weight management contexts) depending on the application. Pharmacokinetics: plasma half-life 15 to 60 minutes; parenteral administration only. Research-grade doses are typically 100 to 300 micrograms subcutaneously per administration.

3. Mechanism of Action

Ghrelin receptor agonist; same class as GHRP-2 with more cortisol/prolactin elevation and stronger appetite stimulation.

The mechanistic profile described above represents the consensus position from peer-reviewed literature where available; for compounds with sparse formal characterization, this section reflects vendor-grade reports and structurally-related class pharmacology and should be interpreted with appropriate caution.

4. Pharmacokinetics and Routes of Administration

Pharmacokinetic data are summarized within the abstract for compounds with formal Phase 1 records. Compounds without published human pharmacokinetic studies are noted as such; investigators should treat the absence of data as a research limitation.

5. Reported Research Dose Ranges

100 to 300 micrograms SC per administration.

Doses are scaled from clinical use where the compound is approved as a medicine, from Phase 2/3 trials where development advanced, or from rodent dose-response data scaled by allometric assumptions where the compound has no human clinical record. Investigators should treat dose ranges from research-chemical-grade vendors as starting points for their own pharmacokinetic and tolerability characterization rather than validated dosing recommendations.

6. Sourcing and Quality Verification

Investigators should obtain analytical confirmation of identity (mass spectrometry; for peptides, additionally amino acid analysis or N-terminal sequencing) and purity (HPLC area-percent, ideally greater than 95 percent) on every lot. Vendor certificates of analysis vary in quality; third-party analytical confirmation through independent laboratories (e.g., Janoshik Analytical, Anabolic Lab) is the gold standard for research-grade peptides and small molecules.

For compounds with established pharmaceutical-grade marketing in any jurisdiction, sourcing from the marketed product (where legal and accessible) provides the highest quality assurance.

7. Reconstitution and Handling

Peptides should be reconstituted in bacteriostatic water or sterile water for injection in the volume appropriate to the desired concentration; lyophilized peptides should be allowed to come to room temperature before reconstitution to minimize precipitation. Reconstituted peptides should be stored refrigerated and used within the timeframe specified by the manufacturer (typically 14 to 30 days for bacteriostatic water reconstitutions, shorter for sterile water).

Small molecules: storage conditions vary by compound; consult the certificate of analysis for the specific product. Most are stable at room temperature in dry, dark conditions; oxidation-sensitive compounds (e.g., catecholamine precursors) require cool storage and protection from light.

8. Stack Interaction Considerations

Investigators combining this compound with other research substances should consider receptor-level interactions (additive effects at shared targets), enzyme-level interactions (CYP-mediated drug-drug interactions where applicable), and pharmacodynamic interactions (additive sedation, additive serotonergic activity, additive hemodynamic effects).

The stack interaction section in published monographs of well-characterized compounds is necessarily incomplete for any specific combination; investigators should treat novel combinations with elevated caution and titrate gradually.

9. References

1. Bowers CY, et al. Growth hormone releasing peptides. Endocrinology 1990s.
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