

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

N-Octanoyl-D-erythro-sphingosine

Catalog number: 1903

Common names: N-C8:0-D-erythro-Ceramide

Source: synthetic

Solubility: ethanol, methanol, chloroform,
DMSO (up to 5 mg/ml)

CAS number: 74713-59-0

Molecular Formula: C₂₆H₅₁NO₃

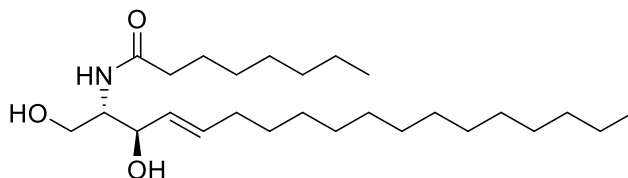
Molecular Weight: 426

Storage: -20°C

Purity: TLC >98%, HPLC >98%; identity
confirmed by MS

TLC System: chloroform/methanol (90:10 by vol.)

Appearance: solid



Application Notes:

Ceramide is a fatty acid amide of sphingosine that has many important biological functions and is the precursor for many complex glycosphingolipids. Ceramide functions as a precursor in the synthesis of sphingomyelin, glycosphingolipids, and of free sphingosine and fatty acids. The sphingosine can be phosphorylated to form sphingosine-1-phosphate. Two of ceramide's metabolites, sphingosine-1-phosphate and glucosylceramide, produce cell proliferation and other cellular functions.¹ Ceramide exerts numerous biological effects, including induction of cell maturation, cell cycle arrest, terminal cell differentiation, cell senescence, and cell death.² Because of these effects ceramide has been investigated for its use in cancer treatment and many potential approaches to cancer therapy have been presented.³ Other effects include producing reactive oxygen in mitochondria (followed by apoptosis) and stimulating phosphorylation of certain proteins (especially mitogen activated protein). It also stimulates some protein phosphatases (especially protein phosphatase 2A) making it an important controller of protein activity. In contrast to long chain ceramides short chain ceramides, such as octanoyl-sphingosine, can pass thru the cell membrane. This allows short chain ceramides to be used to induce apoptosis or necrosis in cancer cells.⁴

Selected References:

1. J. M. Hauser, B. M. Buehrer, and R. M. Bell "Role of ceramide in mitogenesis induced by exogenous sphingoid bases." *Journal of Biological Chemistry* Vol. 269 pp. 6803, 1994
2. N. S. Radin, "Killing tumours by ceramide-induced apoptosis: a critique of available drugs" *Biochemical Journal*, Vol. 371 pp. 243-256, 2003
3. N. S. Radin, "Designing anticancer drugs via the achilles heel: ceramide, allylic ketones, and mitochondria" *Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry*, Vol. 11(10) pp. 2123-2142, 2003
4. A. Arora et al. "Ceramide induces hepatocyte cell death through disruption of mitochondrial function in the rat" *Hepatology*, vol. 25 pp. 958-963, 1997

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