RB1 gene
RB transcriptional corepressor 1

Normal Function
The *RB1* gene provides instructions for making a protein called pRB. This protein acts as a tumor suppressor, which means that it regulates cell growth and keeps cells from dividing too fast or in an uncontrolled way. Under certain conditions, pRB stops other proteins from triggering DNA replication, the process by which DNA makes a copy of itself. Because DNA replication must occur before a cell can divide, tight regulation of this process controls cell division and helps prevent the growth of tumors. Additionally, pRB interacts with other proteins to influence cell survival, the self-destruction of cells (apoptosis), and the process by which cells mature to carry out special functions (differentiation).

Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes
Retinoblastoma
Hundreds of mutations in the *RB1* gene have been identified in people with retinoblastoma, a rare type of eye cancer that typically affects young children. This cancer develops in the retina, which is the specialized light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye that detects light and color. Researchers estimate that 40 percent of all retinoblastomas are germinal, which means that *RB1* mutations occur in all of the body's cells and can be passed to the next generation. The other 60 percent are non-germinal, which means that *RB1* mutations occur only in the eye and cannot be passed to the next generation.

In germinal retinoblastoma, an *RB1* mutation is present in all of the body's cells. For retinoblastoma to develop, the other copy of the *RB1* gene also must be mutated or lost. This second mutation typically occurs early in life in retinal cells. Cells with two altered copies of the *RB1* gene produce no functional pRB and are unable to regulate cell division effectively. As a result, retinal cells lacking functional pRB can divide uncontrollably to form cancerous tumors. Some studies suggest that additional genetic changes can influence the development of retinoblastoma; these changes may help explain variations in the development and growth of tumors in different people.

In people with germinal retinoblastoma, *RB1* mutations increase the risk of several other cancers outside the eye. Specifically, these people are more likely to develop a cancer of the pineal gland in the brain (pinealoma), a type of bone cancer known as osteosarcoma, cancers of soft tissues such as muscle, and an aggressive form of skin cancer called melanoma.
Non-germinal retinoblastoma occurs in people with no history of the disorder in their family. Affected individuals are born with two normal copies of the \( RB1 \) gene. Then, usually in early childhood, both copies of the gene in retinal cells acquire mutations or are lost. These genetic changes prevent the cells from producing any functional pRB. The loss of this protein allows retinal cells to grow and divide without control or order, leading to the development of a cancerous tumor.

**Bladder cancer**

**Lung cancer**

**Other cancers**

In addition to bladder cancer, somatic mutations in the \( RB1 \) gene are associated with many other types of cancer. For example, changes in the \( RB1 \) gene have been reported in some cases of lung cancer, breast cancer, a bone cancer known as osteosarcoma, and an aggressive form of skin cancer called melanoma. Somatic \( RB1 \) mutations have also been identified in some leukemias, which are cancers of blood-forming cells. Somatic \( RB1 \) mutations in cancer cells inactivate pRB so it can no longer regulate cell division effectively.

**Chromosomal Location**

Cytogenetic Location: 13q14.2, which is the long (q) arm of chromosome 13 at position 14.2

Molecular Location: base pairs 48,303,751 to 48,481,890 on chromosome 13 (Homo sapiens Updated Annotation Release 109.20200228, GRCh38.p13) (NCBI)

![Chromosomal Location Diagram](image)

Credit: Genome Decoration Page/NCBI

**Other Names for This Gene**

- p105-Rb
- PP110
- PPP1R130
- RB
- RB1 gene
- RB_HUMAN
- retinoblastoma 1
- Retinoblastoma-1
- Retinoblastoma 1 (including osteosarcoma)
- Retinoblastoma-associated protein

**Additional Information & Resources**

**Educational Resources**
- Molecular Biology of the Cell (fourth edition, 2002): Tumor Suppressor Genes Can Sometimes Be Identified by Study of Rare Hereditary Cancer Syndromes
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK26816/#A4314

**Clinical Information from GeneReviews**
- Retinoblastoma
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1452

**Scientific Articles on PubMed**
- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28RB1%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28Retinoblastoma+1%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+%28%28Genes%5BMH%5D%29+OR+%28Genetic+Phenomena%5BMH%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+360+days%22%5Bdp%5D

**Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM**
- RB TRANSCRIPTIONAL COREPRESSOR 1
  http://omim.org/entry/614041

**Research Resources**
- Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology
  http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Genes/RB1ID90.html
- Cancer Genetics Web
  http://www.cancerindex.org/geneweb/RB1.htm
- ClinVar
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar?term=RB1%5Bgene%5D
Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12459729

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16936737  
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1899835/

- Goodrich DW. The retinoblastoma tumor-suppressor gene, the exception that proves the rule. Oncogene. 2006 Aug 28;25(38):5233-43. Review.  
  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16936742  
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2799241/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9219514

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16816134

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12107345

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18097988

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15108806

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15264269

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12541220  
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC379221/
  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16463005

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16474624

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16682285

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:
  https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/gene/RB1

Reviewed: April 2009
Published: May 12, 2020

Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services