Background: Vinculin is a cytoskeletal protein that plays an important role in the regulation of focal adhesions and embryonic development (1-4). Three structural vinculin domains include an amino-terminal head, a short, flexible proline-rich region and a carboxy-terminal tail (1). In the inactive state, the head and tail domains of vinculin interact to form a closed confirmation. The open and active form of vinculin translocates to focal adhesions where it is thought to be involved in anchoring F-actin to the membrane and regulation of cell migration (2). Phospholipid binding to the tail domain and subsequent phosphorylation of vinculin at Ser1033 and Ser1045 by PKC-α and Tyr100 and Tyr1065 by Src kinases weakens the head-tail interaction (5,6). This change in vinculin allows the binding of a number of other proteins, including talin, α-actinin and paxillin, which disrupts the head-tail interaction and initiates the conformational change from the inactive to active state (2,4). Vinculin deficiencies are associated with a decrease in cell adhesion and an increase in cell motility, suggesting a possible role in metastatic growth (7,8). This is supported by a recently demonstrated relationship between decreased vinculin expression and increased carcinogenesis and metastasis in colorectal carcinoma (9).

Specificity/Sensitivity: Vinculin Antibody detects endogenous levels of total vinculin protein. This antibody also reacts with metavinculin, a 145 kDa splice variant of vinculin.

Source/Purification: Polyclonal antibodies are produced by immunizing animals with a synthetic peptide corresponding to residues near the amino terminus of human vinculin protein. Antibodies are purified by protein A and peptide affinity chromatography.

Background References:

Storage: Supplied in 10 mM sodium HEPES (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 100 µg/ml BSA and 50% glycerol. Store at −20°C. Do not aliquot the antibody.

**Species cross-reactivity is determined by western blot.

**Anti-rabbit secondary antibodies must be used to detect this antibody.

Recommended Antibody Dilutions:
Western blotting 1:1000

For application specific protocols please see the web page for this product at www.cellsignal.com.

Please visit www.cellsignal.com for a complete listing of recommended companion products.