

Table 3. The BMP family of proteins.

BMPs	Known Functions	Gene Locus
BMP1	BMP1 does not belong to the TGF- β family of proteins. It is a metalloprotease that acts on procollagen I, II and III. It is involved in cartilage development.	8p21
BMP2	Acts as a disulfide-linked homodimer and induces bone and cartilage formation. It is a candidate as a retinoid mediator. Plays a key role in osteoblast differentiation.	20p12
BMP3	Induces bone formation.	14p22
BMP4	Regulates the formation of teeth, limbs and bone from mesoderm. It also plays a role in fracture repair.	14q22-q23
BMP5	Performs functions in cartilage development.	6p12.1
BMP6	Plays a role in joint integrity in adults.	6p12.1
BMP7	Plays a key role in osteoblast differentiation. It also induces the production of SMAD1. Also key in renal development and repair.	20q13
BMP8a	Involved in bone and cartilage development.	1p35-p32
BMP8b	Expressed in the hippocampus.	1p35-p32
BMP10	May play a role in the trabeculation of the embryonic heart.	2p14
BMP15	May play a role in oocyte and follicular development.	Xp11.2