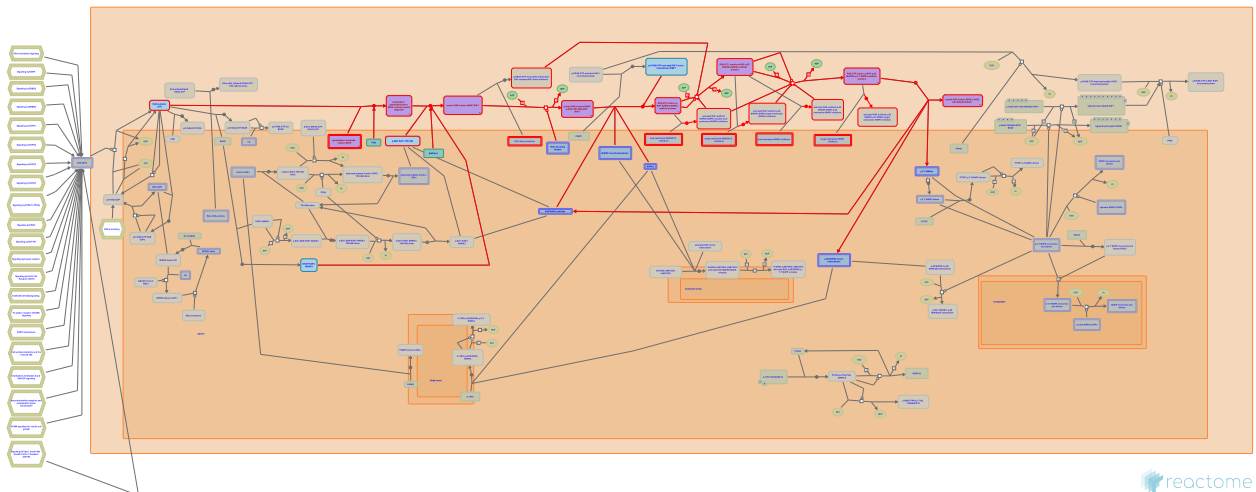


# Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF



Rothfels, K., Stephens, RM.

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This is just an excerpt of a full-length report for this pathway. To access the complete report, please download it at the [Reactome Textbook](https://reactome.org/textbook).

04/05/2024

## Introduction

Reactome is open-source, open access, manually curated and peer-reviewed pathway database. Pathway annotations are authored by expert biologists, in collaboration with Reactome editorial staff and cross-referenced to many bioinformatics databases. A system of evidence tracking ensures that all assertions are backed up by the primary literature. Reactome is used by clinicians, geneticists, genomics researchers, and molecular biologists to interpret the results of high-throughput experimental studies, by bioinformaticians seeking to develop novel algorithms for mining knowledge from genomic studies, and by systems biologists building predictive models of normal and disease variant pathways.

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## Literature references

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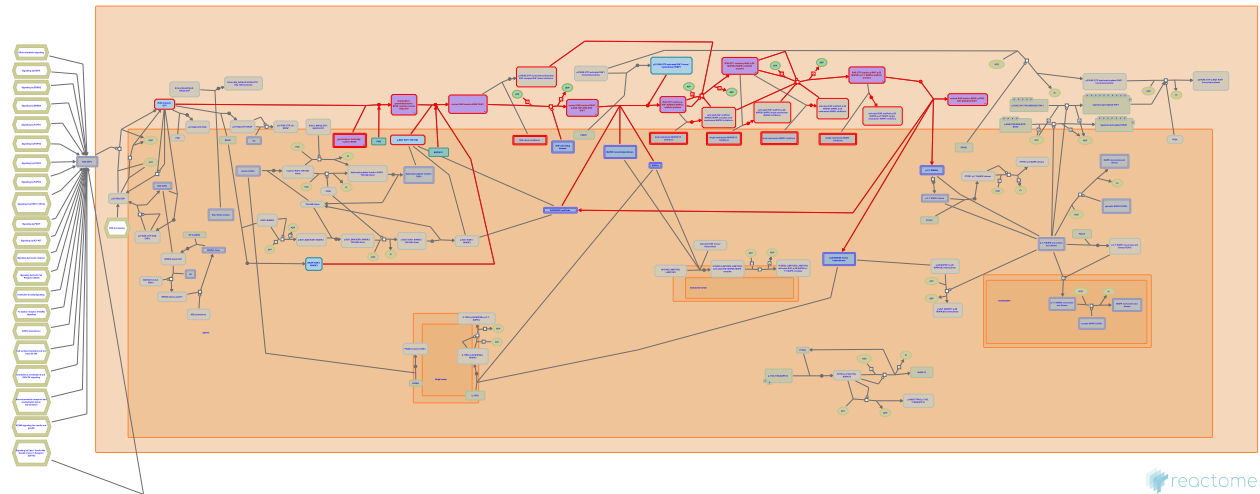
Reactome database release: 88

This document contains 1 pathway and 7 reactions ([see Table of Contents](#))

# Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF ↗

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6802955

**Diseases:** cancer



While BRAF-specific inhibitors inhibit MAPK/ERK activation in the presence of the BRAF V600E mutant, paradoxical activation of ERK signaling has been observed after treatment of cells with inhibitor in the presence of WT BRAF (Wan et al, 2004; Garnett et al, 2005; Heidorn et al, 2010; Hazivassiliou et al, 2010; Poulidakos et al, 2010). This paradoxical ERK activation is also seen in cells expressing kinase-dead or impaired versions of BRAF such as D594V, which occur with low frequency in some cancers (Wan et al, 2004; Heidorn et al, 2010). Unlike BRAF V600E, which occurs exclusively of activating RAS mutations, kinase-impaired versions of BRAF are coincident with RAS mutations in human cancers, and indeed, paradoxical activation of ERK signaling in the presence of inactive BRAF is enhanced in the presence of oncogenic RAS (Heidorn et al, 2010; reviewed in Holderfield et al, 2014). Although the details remain to be worked out, paradoxical ERK activation in the presence of inactive BRAF appears to rely on enhanced dimerization with and transactivation of CRAF (Heidorn et al, 2010; Hazivassiliou et al, 2010; Poulidakos et al, 2010; Roring et al, 2012; Rajakulendran et al, 2009; Holderfield et al, 2013; Freeman et al, 2013; reviewed in Roskoski, 2010; Samatar and Poulidakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015). RAF inhibitors can promote association of RAF-RAS interaction and enhanced RAF dimerization through disruption of intramolecular interactions between the kinase domain and its N-terminal regulatory region. Moreover, specific BRAF inhibitors can only occupy one protomer within the transcactivated BRAF dimer due to negative cooperativity leading to paradoxical ERK activation. (Karoulia et al, 2016; Jin et al, 2017, reviewed in Karoulia et al, 2017).

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## Editions

2015-05-18	Edited	Rothfels, K.
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## Inactive BRAF mutants bind mutant RAS:GTP ↗

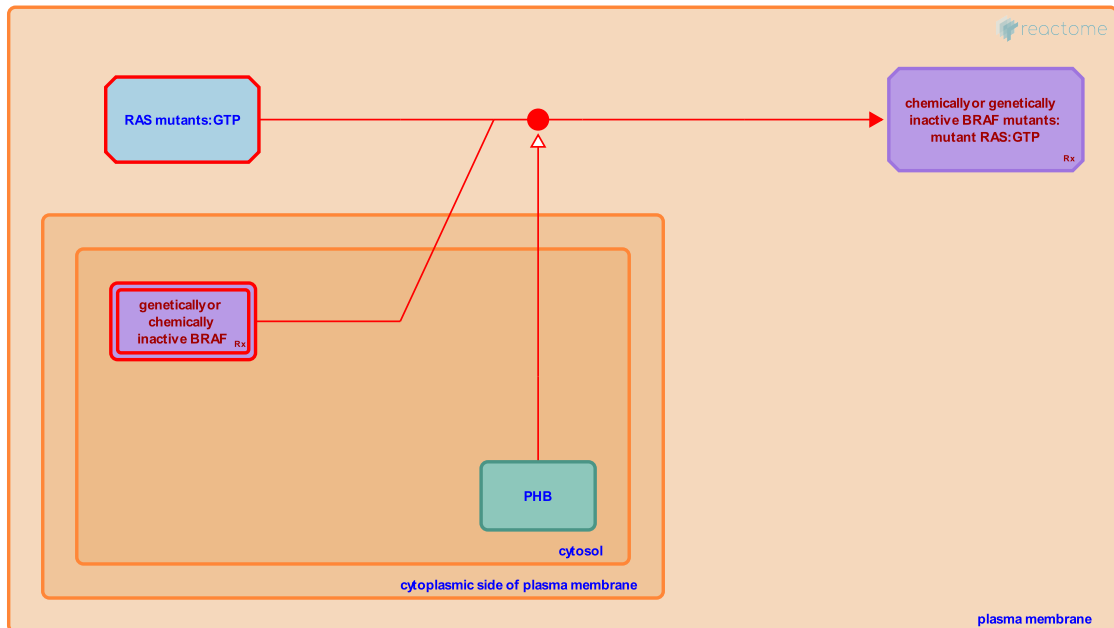
**Location:** [Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF](#)

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6802937

**Type:** binding

**Compartments:** plasma membrane

**Diseases:** cancer



The paradoxical activation of ERK signaling downstream of kinase-dead or inhibited forms of BRAF appears to result from enhanced dimerization with RAF1/CRAF (Wan et al, 2004; Poulikakos et al, 2010; Heidorn et al, 2010; Hatzivassiliou et al, 2010; Freeman et al, 2013). The propensity to dimerize may be promoted by conformational changes in the BRAF monomer as a result of mutation or inhibitor binding (reviewed in Samatar and Poulikakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015).

**Followed by:** [Inactive BRAF mutants:mutant RAS:GTP bind RAF1](#)

## Literature references

- Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗
- Fiala, GJ., Herr, R., Röring, M., Heilmann, K., Schamel, WW., Saunders, DN. et al. (2012). Distinct requirement for an intact dimer interface in wild-type, V600E and kinase-dead B-Raf signalling. *EMBO J.*, 31, 2629-47. ↗
- Freeman, AK., Ritt, DA., Morrison, DK. (2013). Effects of Raf dimerization and its inhibition on normal and disease-associated Raf signaling. *Mol. Cell*, 49, 751-8. ↗
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- Reis-Filho, JS., Heidorn, SJ., Springer, CJ., Pritchard, C., Nourry, A., Milagre, C. et al. (2010). Kinase-dead BRAF and oncogenic RAS cooperate to drive tumor progression through CRAF. *Cell*, 140, 209-21. ↗

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## Inactive BRAF mutants:mutant RAS:GTP bind RAF1 ↗

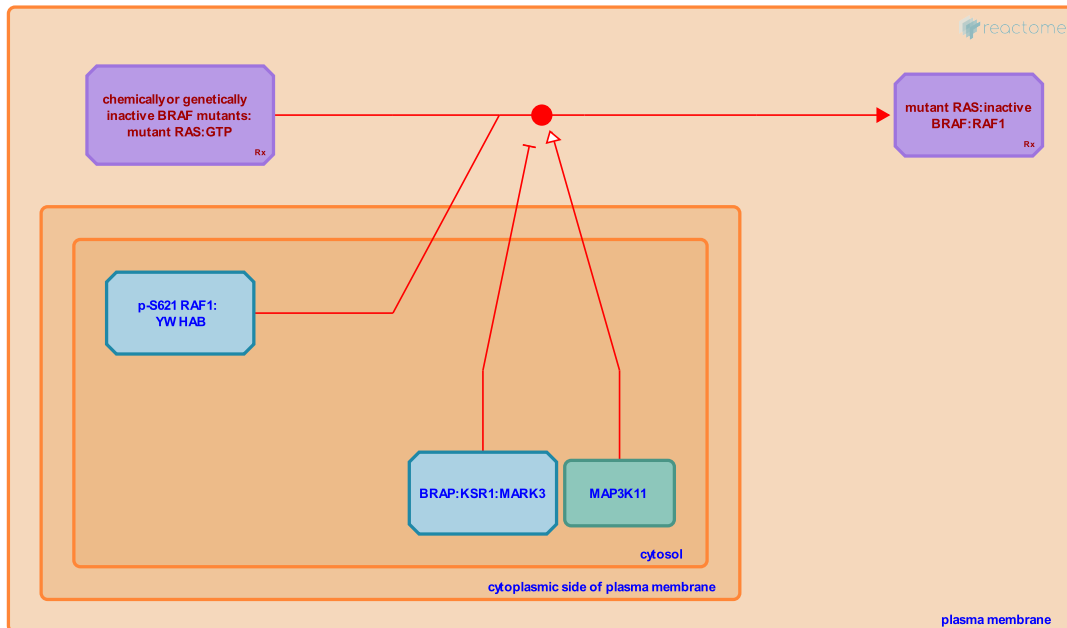
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**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-8936731

**Type:** binding

**Compartments:** plasma membrane

**Diseases:** cancer



The paradoxical activation of ERK signaling downstream of kinase-dead or inhibited forms of BRAF appears to result from enhanced dimerization with RAF1/CRAF (Wan et al, 2004; Poulikakos et al, 2010; Heidorn et al, 2010; Hatzivassiliou et al, 2010; Freeman et al, 2013). The propensity to dimerize may be promoted by conformational changes in the BRAF monomer as a result of mutation or inhibitor binding (reviewed in Samatar and Poulikakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015).

**Preceded by:** Inactive BRAF mutants bind mutant RAS:GTP

**Followed by:** RAF is paradoxically phosphorylated downstream of kinase-inactive RAF

## Literature references

- Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗
- Fiala, GJ., Herr, R., Röring, M., Heilmann, K., Schamel, WW., Saunders, DN. et al. (2012). Distinct requirement for an intact dimer interface in wild-type, V600E and kinase-dead B-Raf signalling. *EMBO J.*, 31, 2629-47. ↗
- Freeman, AK., Ritt, DA., Morrison, DK. (2013). Effects of Raf dimerization and its inhibition on normal and disease-associated Raf signaling. *Mol. Cell*, 49, 751-8. ↗
- Hatzivassiliou, G., Belvin, M., Stokoe, D., Ludlam, MJ., Alvarado, R., Morales, T. et al. (2010). RAF inhibitors prime wild-type RAF to activate the MAPK pathway and enhance growth. *Nature*, 464, 431-5. ↗
- Reis-Filho, JS., Heidorn, SJ., Springer, CJ., Pritchard, C., Nourry, A., Milagre, C. et al. (2010). Kinase-dead BRAF and oncogenic RAS cooperate to drive tumor progression through CRAF. *Cell*, 140, 209-21. ↗

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## RAF is paradoxically phosphorylated downstream of kinase-inactive RAF ↗

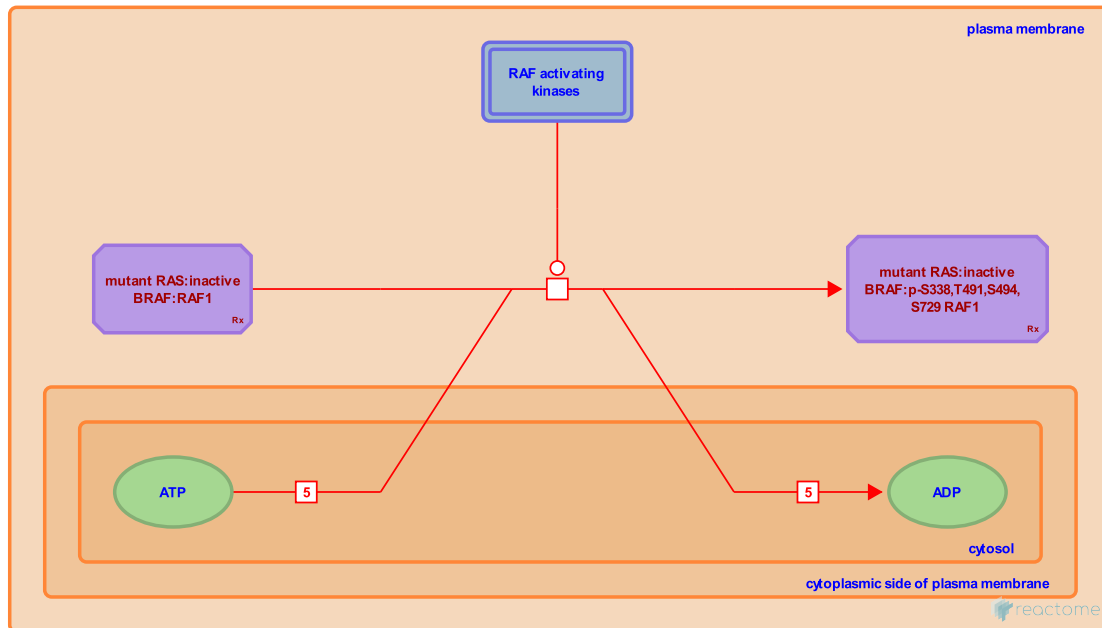
**Location:** Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6802941

**Type:** transition

**Compartments:** plasma membrane

**Diseases:** cancer



The enhanced dimerization of inhibited or kinase dead versions of BRAF to RAF1/CRAF stimulates the phosphorylation and transactivation of RAF1 (Wan et al, 2004; Garnett et al, 2005; Heidorn et al, 2010; Poulikakos et al, 2010; Hatzivassiliou et al, 2010; reviewed in Samatar and Poulikakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015). Other evidence suggests that paradoxical activation of RAF1 by inhibited or inactive BRAF may result from relief of an inhibitory CRAF autophosphorylation event (Holderfield et al, 2013; reviewed in Holderfield, 2014).

**Preceded by:** Inactive BRAF mutants:mutant RAS:GTP bind RAF1

**Followed by:** RAS:GTP:p-RAF complexes paradoxically bind MAP2Ks and MAPKs

### Literature references

- Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗
- Stuart, DD., Wallroth, M., Hekmat-Nejad, M., McCormick, F., Chan, J., Tandeske, L. et al. (2013). RAF inhibitors activate the MAPK pathway by relieving inhibitory autophosphorylation. *Cancer Cell*, 23, 594-602. ↗
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- Hatzivassiliou, G., Belvin, M., Stokoe, D., Ludlam, MJ., Alvarado, R., Morales, T. et al. (2010). RAF inhibitors prime wild-type RAF to activate the MAPK pathway and enhance growth. *Nature*, 464, 431-5. ↗
- Reis-Filho, JS., Heidorn, SJ., Springer, CJ., Pritchard, C., Nourry, A., Milagre, C. et al. (2010). Kinase-dead BRAF and oncogenic RAS cooperate to drive tumor progression through CRAF. *Cell*, 140, 209-21. ↗

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## RAS:GTP:p-RAF complexes paradoxically bind MAP2Ks and MAPKs ↗

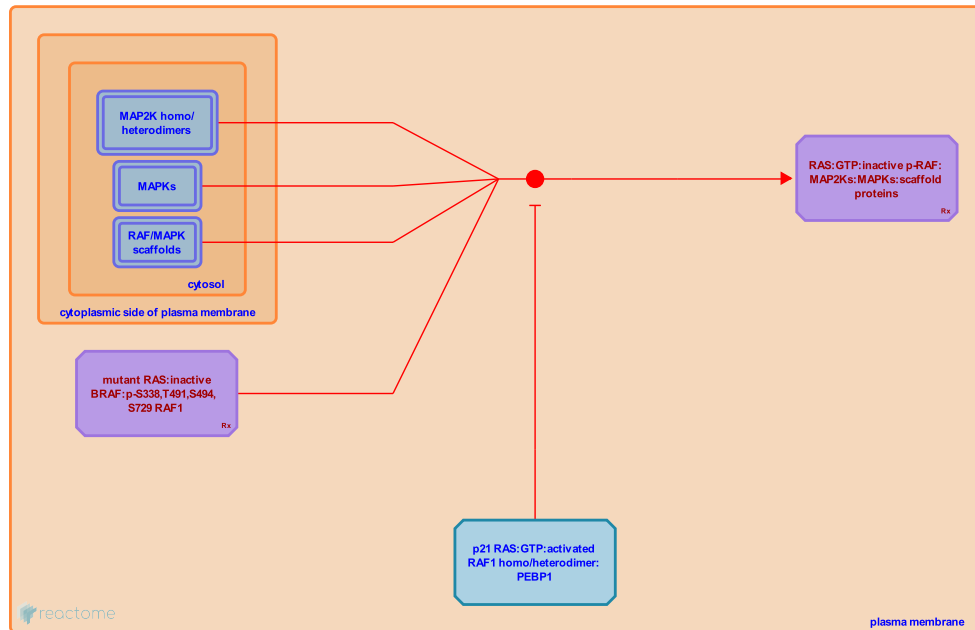
**Location:** Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6802942

**Type:** binding

**Compartments:** plasma membrane

**Diseases:** cancer



Dimerization of kinase-dead or inhibited versions of BRAF to RAF1/CRAF leads to the recruitment and phosphorylation of MAP2Ks and MAPKs (Wan et al, 2004; Garnett et al, 2005; Heidorn et al, 2010; Poulikakos et al, 2010; Hatzivassiliou et al, 2010; reviewed in Samatar and Poulikakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015). Although the interactions haven't been studied in detail, these disease pathways are presumed to recruit MAP2Ks and MAPKs in a scaffold-dependent manner similar to WT (reviewed in Matallanas et al, 2011).

**Preceded by:** RAF is paradoxically phosphorylated downstream of kinase-inactive RAF

**Followed by:** RAS:GTP:inactive p-RAF complexes phosphorylate MAP2Ks

### Literature references

- Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗
- Hatzivassiliou, G., Belvin, M., Stokoe, D., Ludlam, MJ., Alvarado, R., Morales, T. et al. (2010). RAF inhibitors prime wild-type RAF to activate the MAPK pathway and enhance growth. *Nature*, 464, 431-5. ↗
- Reis-Filho, JS., Heidorn, SJ., Springer, CJ., Pritchard, C., Nourry, A., Milagre, C. et al. (2010). Kinase-dead BRAF and oncogenic RAS cooperate to drive tumor progression through CRAF. *Cell*, 140, 209-21. ↗
- Garnett, MJ., Barford, D., Paterson, H., Rana, S., Marais, R. (2005). Wild-type and mutant B-RAF activate C-RAF through distinct mechanisms involving heterodimerization. *Mol. Cell*, 20, 963-9. ↗
- Poulikakos, PI., Samatar, AA. (2014). Targeting RAS-ERK signalling in cancer: promises and challenges. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*, 13, 928-42. ↗

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## RAS:GTP:inactive p-RAF complexes phosphorylate MAP2Ks ↗

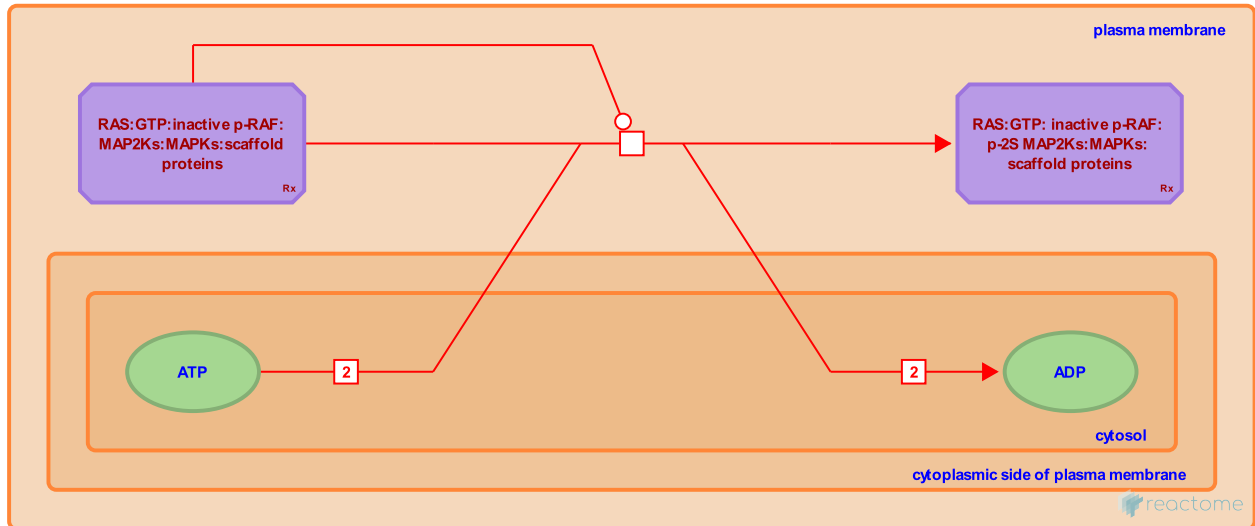
**Location:** Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6802943

**Type:** transition

**Compartments:** plasma membrane

**Diseases:** cancer



As in the WT pathway, activation of ERK signaling downstream of kinase-dead or inhibited forms of BRAF depends on phosphorylation of two serine residues in the activation loop of the MAP2K proteins (Wan et al, 2004; Garnett et al, 2005; Heidorn et al, 2010; Poulikakos et al, 2010; Hatzivassiliou et al, 2010; reviewed in Samatar and Poulikakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015).

**Preceded by:** RAS:GTP:p-RAF complexes paradoxically bind MAP2Ks and MAPKs

### Literature references

- Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗
- Hatzivassiliou, G., Belvin, M., Stokoe, D., Ludlam, MJ., Alvarado, R., Morales, T. et al. (2010). RAF inhibitors prime wild-type RAF to activate the MAPK pathway and enhance growth. *Nature*, 464, 431-5. ↗
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## Activated MAP2Ks phosphorylate MAPKs downstream of inactive BRAF mutants ↗

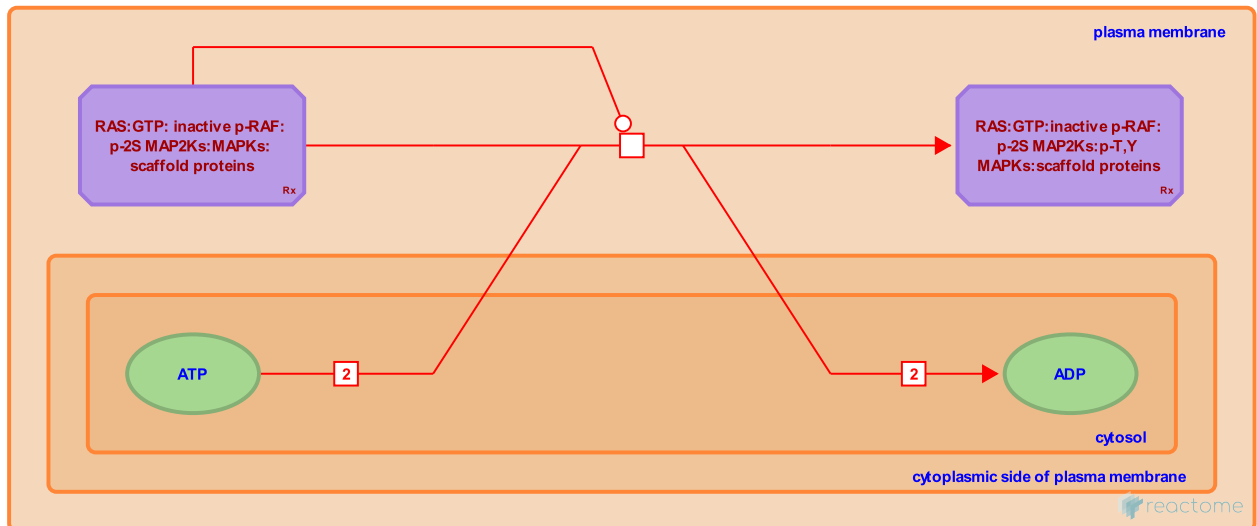
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**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6802918

**Type:** transition

**Compartments:** plasma membrane

**Diseases:** cancer



Downstream of kinase-dead or inhibited forms of BRAF, activated MAP2K phosphorylates MAPK on threonine and tyrosine residues in the activation loop (Wan et al, 2004; Garnett et al, 2005; Heidorn et al, 2010; Poulikakos et al, 2010; Hatzivassiliou et al, 2010; reviewed in Samatar and Poulikakos, 2014; Lavoie and Therrien, 2015).

### Literature references

- Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗
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- Poulikakos, PI., Samatar, AA. (2014). Targeting RAS-ERK signalling in cancer: promises and challenges. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*, 13, 928-42. ↗

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## Dissociation of paradoxically activated RAS:BRAF complexes ↗

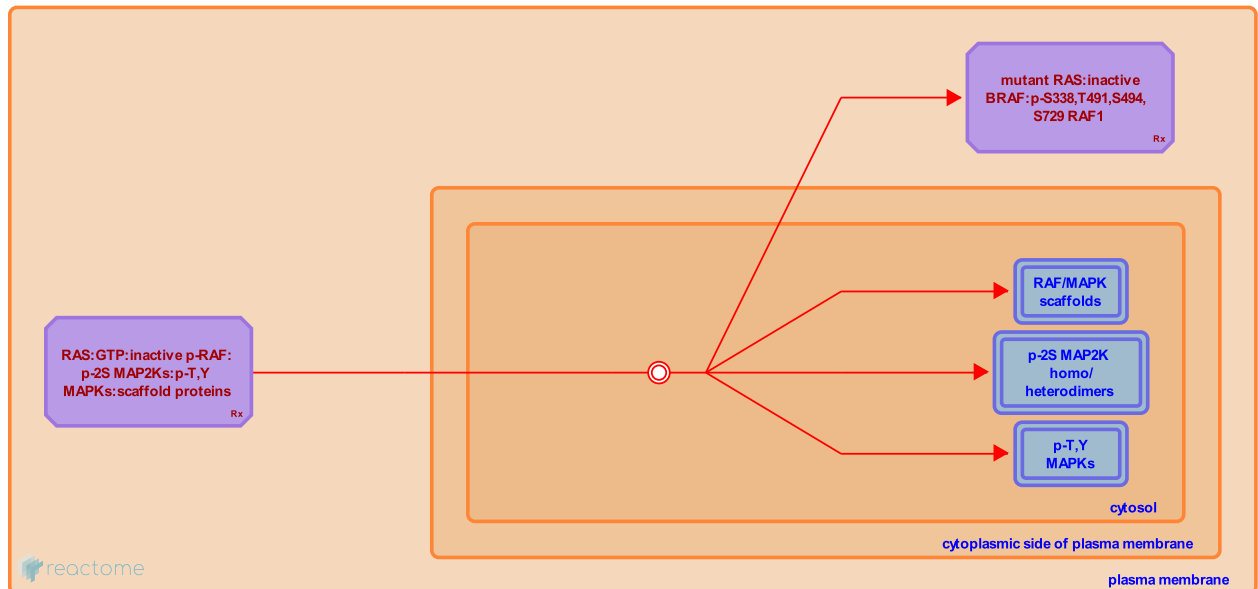
**Location:** Paradoxical activation of RAF signaling by kinase inactive BRAF

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-6803234

**Type:** dissociation

**Compartments:** cytosol

**Diseases:** cancer



After phosphorylation by MAP2Ks, the scaffolded kinase complex assembled by kinase dead or inhibited BRAF mutants dissociates, as is the case for WT complexes (reviewed in Lavoie and Therrien et al, 2015).

### Literature references

Lavoie, H., Therrien, M. (2015). Regulation of RAF protein kinases in ERK signalling. *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 16, 281-98. ↗

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