Vascular intimal calcification is a hallmark of advanced atherosclerosis and an active process akin to bone remodeling. Heparanase (HPSE) is an endo-β-glucuronidase, which cleaves glycosaminoglycan chains of heparan sulfate proteoglycans. The role of heparanase in osteogenesis and bone remodeling is controversial. Previously, we have reported the upregulation of HPSE in human carotid endarterectomies from symptomatic patients and showed that the HPSE expression levels correlated with markers of inflammation and increased thrombogenicity.
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