Hepatocyte nuclear factor 4 alpha (HNF4α, NR2A1, gene symbol HNF4A) is a highly conserved member of the nuclear receptor (NR) superfamily of ligand-dependent transcription factors \(^1\) and an essential gene in early development as well as in the adult (Fig. 1)\(^2\)\(^3\). HNF4α is expressed in the adult liver, kidney, pancreas, intestine, colon and to a lesser degree in the stomach, as well as in the visceral endoderm. HNF4α is a nuclear protein that binds DNA exclusively as a homodimer \(^4\); it also exhibits strong homodimerization activity in the absence of DNA and cannot heterodimerize with retinoid X receptor (RXR), unlike other nuclear receptors \(^5\)\(^6\).