



Human Hepatic Stellate Cells (HStEC)

Catalog Number: 5300

Cell Specification

Hepatic stellate cells (HStEC) are intralobular connective tissue cells presenting myofibroblast-like or lipocyte phenotypes. They participate in the homeostasis of liver extracellular matrix, repair, regeneration, fibrosis and control retinol metabolism, storage and release. Following liver injury, HStEC transform into myofibroblast-like cells and are the major source of type I collagen in the fibrotic liver. Beyond these features, HStEC have been implicated as regulators of hepatic microcirculation via cell contraction, and in disease states, in the pathogenesis of intrahepatic portal hypertension [1, 2]. Proliferation and migration of HStEC and expression of chemokines are involved in the pathogenesis of liver inflammation and fibrogenesis. HStEC possess voltage-activated calcium current, express the low affinity nerve growth factor receptor p75, and undergo apoptosis in response to nerve growth factor stimulation [3, 4]. Therefore, the new insight into the molecular regulation of HStEC activation will lead to therapeutic approaches in treatment of hepatic fibrosis in the future, and could lead to reduced morbidity and mortality in patients with chronic liver injury.

HHStEC from ScienCell Research Laboratories are isolated from human liver. HHStEC are cryopreserved immediately after purification and delivered frozen. Each vial contains $>5 \times 10^5$ cells in 1 ml volume. HHStEC are characterized by immunofluorescent method with antibodies to desmin and α -actin. HHStEC are negative for HIV-1, HBV, HCV, mycoplasma, bacteria, yeast and fungi. HHStEC are guaranteed to further expand for 15 population doublings in the conditions provided by ScienCell Research Laboratories.

Product Use

HHStEC are for research use only. It is not approved for human or animal use, or for application in *in vitro* diagnostic procedures.

Storage

Directly and immediately transfer cells from dry ice to liquid nitrogen upon receiving and keep the cells in liquid nitrogen until cell culture is needed for experiments.

Shipping

Dry ice.

Reference

- [1] Reynaert H, Thompson MG, Thomas T, Geerts A. (2002) Hepatic stellate cells: role in microcirculation and pathophysiology of portal hypertension. *Gut* 50:571-581.
- [2] Rockey D. C. (2001) Hepatic blood flow regulation by stellate cells in normal and injured liver. *Semin Liver Dis* 21(3):337-49.
- [3] Oide H, Tateyama M, Wang XE, Hirose M, Itatsu T, Watanabe S, Ochi R, Sato N. (1999) Activated stellate (Ito) cells possess voltage-activated calcium current. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta.* 1418:158-164.
- [4] Trim N, Morgan S, Evans M, Issa R, Fine D, Afford S, Wilkins B, Iredale J. (2000) Hepatic stellate cells express the low affinity nerve growth factor receptor p75 and undergo apoptosis in response to nerve growth factor stimulation. *Am. J. Pathol.* 156(4):1235-1243.

Instruction for culturing cells

Caution: Cryopreserved cells are very delicate. Thaw the vial in a 37°C waterbath and return them to culture as quickly as possible with minimal handling!

Set up culture after receiving the ordering:

1. Prepare a poly-L-lysine coated flask ($2 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$, T-75 flask is recommended) and leave the flask in incubator overnight (minimum one hour at 37°C incubator).
2. Prepare complete medium: decontaminate the external surfaces of medium and medium supplements with 70% ethanol and transfer them to sterile field. Aseptically open each supplement tube and add them to the basal medium with a pipette. Rinse each tube with medium to recover the entire volume.
3. Rinse the poly-L-lysine coated flask with sterile water twice and add 20 ml of complete medium to the flask. Leave the flask in the hood and go to thaw the cells.
4. Place the vial in a 37°C waterbath, hold and rotate the vial gently until the contents are completely thawed. Remove the vial from the waterbath immediately, wipe it dry, rinse the vial with 70% ethanol and transfer it to a sterile field. Remove the cap, being careful not to touch the interior threads with fingers. Using 1 ml eppendorf pipette gently resuspend the contents of the vial.
5. Dispense the contents of the vial into the equilibrated, poly-L-lysine coated culture vessels. A seeding density of 5,000 cells/cm² is recommended.
Note: Dilution and centrifugation of cells after thawing are not recommended since these actions are more harmful to the cells than the effect of DMSO residue in the culture. It is also important that stellate cells are plated in poly-L-lysine coated culture vessels that promote cell attachment.
6. Replace the cap or cover, and gently rock the vessel to distribute the cells evenly. Loosen caps if necessary to permit gas exchange.
7. Return the culture vessels to the incubator.
8. For best result, do not disturb the culture for at least 16 hours after the culture has been initiated. Change the growth medium the next day to remove the residual DMSO and unattached cells, then every other day thereafter. A healthy culture will display stellate or spindle-shaped cell morphology, nongranular cytoplasm, and the cell number will be doubled after two to three days in culture.

Maintenance of Culture:

1. Change the medium to fresh supplemented medium the next morning after establishing a culture from cryopreserved cells. For subsequent subcultures, change medium 48 hours after establishing the subculture.
2. Change the medium every other day thereafter, until the culture is approximately 50% confluent.
3. Once the culture reaches 50% confluence, change medium every day until the culture is approximately 80% confluent.

Subculture:

1. Subculture the cells when they are over 90% confluent.
2. Prepare poly-L-lysine coated cell culture flasks.
3. Warm medium, trypsin/EDTA solution, trypsin neutralization solution, and DPBS to **room temperature**. We do not recommend warming the reagents and medium at 37°C waterbath prior to use.
4. Rinse the cells with DPBS.
5. Incubate cells with 10 ml of trypsin/EDTA solution (in the case of T-75 flask) until 80% of cells are rounded up (monitored with microscope). Add 10 ml of trypsin neutralization solution to the digestion immediately and gently rock the culture vessel.
Note: Use ScienCell Research Laboratories' trypsin/EDTA solution that is optimized to minimize the killing of the cells by over trypsinization.
6. Harvest and transfer released cells into a 50 ml centrifuge tube. Rinse the flask with another 10 ml of growth medium to collect the residue cells. Examine the flask under microscope to make sure the harvesting is successful by looking at the number of cells left behind. There should be less than 5%.
7. Centrifuge the harvested cell suspension at 1000 rpm for 5 min and resuspend cells in growth medium.
8. Count cells and plate them in a new, poly-L-lysine coated flask with cell density as recommended.

Caution: Handling human derived products is potentially biohazardous. Although each cell strain testes negative for HIV, HBV and HCV DNA, diagnostic tests are not necessarily 100% accurate, therefore, proper precautions must be taken to avoid inadvertent exposure. Always wear gloves and safety glasses when working these materials. Never mouth pipette. We recommend following the universal procedures for handling products of human origin as the minimum precaution against contamination [1].

[1]. Grizzle, W. E., and Polt, S. S. (1988) Guidelines to avoid personal contamination by infective agents in research laboratories that use human tissues. J Tissue Culture Methods. 11(4).