Human Spinal Cord Microvascular Endothelial Cells (HSCMEC)

Catalog #1010

Cell Specification

Microvascular endothelial cells (MEC) in the central nervous system (CNS) are the major component of the blood-brain barrier, which separates the CNS from the circulatory system. MEC are bound together by tight junctions and closely interact with pericytes and astrocyte end feet. MEC in the CNS distinguish themselves from MEC of peripheral and other organs by 1) tight junctions that display high electrical resistance and slow paracellular flux, 2) the absence of fenestrae and a reduced level of pinocytic activity, and 3) asymmetrically-localized enzymes and carrier-mediated transport systems [1-3]. Similar to peripheral endothelial cells, MEC express, or can be induced to express, cell adhesion molecules on their surface that regulate the extravasation of leukocytes into the CNS. MEC in the CNS have been widely used for studying the molecular and cellular properties of blood-brain barrier.

HSCMEC from ScienCell Research Laboratories are isolated from human spinal cord. HSCMEC are cryopreserved at passage one and delivered frozen. Each vial contains >5 x 10^5 cells in 1 ml volume. HSCMEC are characterized by immunofluorescence with antibodies specific to vWF/Factor VIII and CD31 (PECAM), and by uptake of DiI-Ac-LDL. HSCMEC are negative for HIV-1, HBV, HCV, mycoplasma, bacteria, yeast, and fungi. HSCMEC are guaranteed to further culture under the conditions provided by ScienCell Research Laboratories; however, *HSCMEC are not recommended for expanding or long-term cultures due to limited expansion capacity*.

Recommended Medium

It is recommended to use Endothelial Cell Medium (ECM, Cat. #1001) for culturing HSCMEC *in vitro*.

Product Use

HSCMEC are for research use only. They are not approved for human or animal use, or for application in *in vitro* diagnostic procedures.

Storage

Upon receiving, directly and immediately transfer the cells from dry ice to liquid nitrogen and keep the cells in liquid nitrogen until they are needed for experiments.

Shipping

Dry ice.

References

[1] Crone C, Oleson SP. (1992) "Electrical resistance of brain microvessel endothelium." *Brain Res*. 241: 49-55.
[2] Reese TS, Karnovsky MJ. (1967) "Fine structural localization of blood-brain barrier to exogenous peroxidase." *J Cell Biol*. 34: 9-14.
[3] Vorbrodt AW. (1988) "Ultrastructural cytochemistry of blood-brain barrier endothelia." *Prog Histochem Cytochem*. 18: 1-96.

Instructions for culturing cells

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

Note: HSCMEC are very sensitive cells and they are not expected to proliferate many times in culture. Experiments should be well organized before thawing the cells. It is recommended that HSCMEC are used for experiments at earliest passage after initial plating with minimal expansion. If subculture is inevitable, follow the instructions below with special care and it is recommended that the cells only be subcultured once.

Initiating the culture:

1. Prepare a fibronectin-coated flask (2 μg/cm^2, T-75 flask is recommended). Add 10 ml of sterile Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline, Ca^{++} and Mg^{++}-free (ScienCell, Cat. #0303) to a T-75 flask and then add 150 μl of fibronectin stock solution (ScienCell, Cat. #8248). Leave the vessel in a 37 °C incubator overnight.
2. Prepare complete medium. Decontaminate the external surfaces of medium bottle and medium supplement tubes with 70% ethanol and transfer them to a sterile field. Aseptically transfer supplement to the basal medium with a pipette. Rinse the supplement tube with medium to recover the entire volume.
3. Aspirate fibronectin solution and add 15 ml of complete medium to the culture vessel. The fibronectin solution can be used twice. Leave the vessel in the sterile field and proceed to thaw the cryopreserved cells.
4. Place the frozen vial in a 37°C water bath. Hold and rotate the vial gently until the contents completely thaw. Promptly remove the vial from the water bath, wipe it down with 70% ethanol, and transfer it to the sterile field.
5. Carefully remove the cap without touching the interior threads. Gently resuspend and dispense the contents of the vial into the equilibrated, fibronectin-coated culture vessel. A seeding density of 5,000 cells/cm^2 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 residual DMSO in the culture. It is also important that cells are plated in fibronectin-coated culture vessels to promote cell attachment.
6. Replace the cap or lid of the culture vessel and gently rock the vessel to distribute the cells evenly. Loosen cap, if necessary, to allow gas exchange.
7. Return the culture vessel to the incubator.
8. For best results, do not disturb the culture for at least 16 hours after the culture has been initiated. Refresh culture medium the next day to remove residual DMSO and unattached cells, then every other day thereafter.

Maintaining the culture:

1. Refresh supplemented culture medium the next morning after establishing a culture from cryopreserved cells.
2. Change the medium every three days thereafter, until the culture is approximately 70% confluent.
3. Once the culture reaches 70% confluency, change medium every other day until the culture is approximately 90% confluent.

Subculturing:

1. Subculture when the culture reaches 90% confluency or above.
2. Prepare fibronectin-coated culture vessels (2 μg/cm^2) one day before subculture.
3. Warm complete medium, trypsin/EDTA solution (T/E, Cat. #0103), T/E neutralization solution (TNS, Cat. #0113), and DPBS (Ca^{++}- and Mg^{++}-free, Cat. #0303) to **room temperature**. We do not recommend warming reagents and medium in a 37ºC water bath prior to use.
4. Rinse the cells with DPBS.
5. Add 10 ml of DPBS and then 1 ml of T/E solution into flask (in the case of a T-75 flask). Gently rock the flask to ensure complete coverage of cells by T/E solution. Incubate the flask in a 37ºC incubator for 1 to 2 minutes or until cells completely round up. Use a microscope to monitor the change in cell morphology.
6. During incubation, prepare a 50 ml conical centrifuge tube with 5 ml of fetal bovine serum (FBS, Cat. #0500).
7. Transfer T/E solution from the flask to the 50 ml centrifuge tube (a small percent of cells may detach) and continue to incubate the flask at 37ºC for another 1 to 2 minutes (no solution in the flask at this moment).
8. At the end of incubation, gently tap the side of the flask to dislodge cells from the surface. Check under a microscope to make sure that all cells detach.
9. Add 5 ml of TNS solution to the flask and transfer detached cells to the 50 ml centrifuge tube. Rinse the flask with another 5 ml of TNS to collect the residual cells.
10. Examine the flask under a microscope for a successful cell harvest by looking at the number of cells being left behind; there should be less than 5%.

    Note: Use ScienCell T/E solution that is optimized to minimize cell damages due to over trypsinization.

11. Centrifuge the 50 ml centrifuge tube at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes. Resuspend cells in culture medium.
12. Count and plate cells in a new fibronectin-coated culture vessel with the recommended cell density.

Caution: Handling human-derived products is potentially biohazardous. Although each cell strain tests 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 with 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 WE, Polt S. (1988) "Guidelines to avoid personal contamination by infective agents in research laboratories that use human tissues." *J Tissue Cult Methods.* 11: 191-9.