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Platelet lysate production method, production system, and bag set

Abstract

Provided are a method for producing a platelet lysate, a production system, and a bag set capable of efficiently producing a platelet lysate with a simple device structure. According to the method for producing a platelet lysate, by which a platelet lysate (PL) that contains a growth factor contained in platelet is produced, buffy coat is collected from whole blood; the buffy coat (BC) is centrifuged to extract a supernatant, thereby collecting a platelet concentrate from which leukocyte has been removed; and, prior to freezing, the platelet concentrate is centrifuged to remove the supernatant, thereby preparing a highly concentrated platelet concentrate. The highly concentrated platelet concentrate is then frozen and thawed, and further centrifuged to recover the platelet lysate.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present invention relates to a method for producing platelet lysate for extracting a growth factor contained in platelet, a production system, and a bag set.

BACKGROUND ART

(2) In recent years, there has been advancing clinical application of cell therapy, in which a cell collected from biological tissue is cultured in vitro, amplified up to a required population, and put into therapy. Among others, mesenchymal stem cell is expected to be applied to regenerative medicine such as reconstruction of bone, blood vessel and myocardium, for its potential to differentiation into various cells. For wide spreading of such cell therapy, a cell culture medium capable of efficiently culturing an intended cell is desired.

(3) It has been a general consensus that the cell culture medium for mesenchymal stem cell essentially contains an animal-derived growth factor such as fetal bovine serum (FBS). Recent proposal, however, relates to a growth factor extracted from platelet contained in human blood, as an alternative to the animal-derived growth factor such as FBS (“Human platelet lysate: Replacing fetal bovine serum as a gold standard for human cell propagation?”, Thierry Burnouf, et al., Biomaterials, Vol. 76, January 2016, Pages 371-387). This growth factor is obtained by extracting a growth factor contained in intracellular granule of platelet to the outside of the cell, and is also referred to as platelet lysate (PL) since it is obtainable by lysing platelet. Some reports describe that the platelet lysate has a higher ability to culture mesenchymal stem cell, than FBS.

(4) According to a known method for preparing the platelet lysate, platelet separated from whole blood (WB) is frozen and thawed to break the cell membrane, thereby extracellularly extracting the growth factor in the granule.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

(5) The present invention is conceived regarding production of the platelet lysate, wherein an object thereof is to provide a method for producing a platelet lysate, a production system and a bag set, capable of efficiently producing a platelet lysate with a simple device structure.

(6) According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for producing a platelet lysate, the method includes: collecting from a donor a platelet concentrate that contains platelet; freezing and thawing the platelet concentrate; and centrifuging, following freezing and thawing, the platelet concentrate to recover a platelet lysate.

(7) According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for producing a platelet lysate, the method includes: collecting a buffy coat from whole blood; centrifuging the buffy coat to extract a supernatant, and removing leukocyte to collect a platelet concentrate; centrifuging, prior to freezing, the platelet concentrate, and removing a supernatant to further densify platelet in the platelet concentrate, to prepare a highly concentrated platelet concentrate; freezing and thawing the highly concentrated platelet concentrate; and centrifuging the highly concentrated platelet concentrate, having been frozen and thawed, to separate a supernatant, and recovering it as the platelet lysate.

(8) According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for producing a platelet lysate, the method includes: collecting whole blood from a donor; allowing the collected whole blood to pass through a leukapheresis filter to remove leukocyte; flushing a platelet recovery liquid through the leukapheresis filter through which the whole blood has been allowed to pass, in a direction opposite to a flow direction of the whole blood, to recover platelet retained on the leukapheresis filter as a platelet-containing liquid; further centrifuging the platelet-containing liquid to remove a supernatant, and thus concentrating platelet to prepare a platelet concentrate; freezing and thawing the platelet concentrate; and centrifuging the platelet concentrate, following freezing

and thawing, to recover a supernatant as the platelet lysate.

(9) According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for producing a platelet lysate, the method includes: collecting whole blood from a donor; allowing the collected whole blood to pass through a leukapheresis filter to remove leukocyte; flushing a rinsing liquid through the leukapheresis filter through which the whole blood has been allowed to pass, in a flow direction of the whole blood, to recover residual blood retained on the leukapheresis filter as a rinsate; centrifuging the rinsate to recover a platelet-containing liquid; centrifuging the whole blood from which leukocyte has been removed, to recover a platelet-containing liquid; acquiring a platelet concentrate that contains platelet from the platelet-containing liquid; freezing and thawing the platelet concentrate; centrifuging, following freezing and thawing, the platelet concentrate to recover the platelet lysate.

(10) According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system for producing a platelet lysate used for the method for producing a platelet lysate according to the aforementioned aspect, the system includes: a bag set including a concentration bag that pools the platelet concentrate, and a supernatant recovery bag connected through a coupling tube to the concentration bag; and a centrifuge including a centrifugal unit that applies a centrifugal force to the bag set, a pressing unit that pressurizes the concentration bag to transfer a supernatant in the concentration bag to the supernatant recovery bag, and a sensor that detects a state of transfer of the supernatant, the centrifuge transferring a specified amount of the supernatant, having been obtained by centrifuging the platelet concentrate in the concentration bag, into the supernatant recovery bag, and stopping the centrifugal unit.

(11) According to a still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a bag set used in the method for producing a platelet lysate according to the aforementioned aspect, the bag set includes: a platelet concentration bag provided with a connection tube, a transfer port, and a coupling tube; a transfer tube connected to the transfer port; and a supernatant recovery bag connected through the transfer tube to the platelet concentration bag.

(12) According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a bag set for recovering platelet from a leukapheresis filter, the bag set includes: a first whole blood bag that pools whole blood of a donor; a leukapheresis filter connected to a downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a second whole blood bag connected through the leukapheresis filter to a downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a recovery liquid bag connected to a downstream side of the leukapheresis filter, and pooling a platelet recovery liquid for recovering platelet from the leukapheresis filter; and a concentration bag set connected to an upstream side of the leukapheresis filter.

(13) According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a bag set for recovering platelet from a leukapheresis filter, the bag set includes: a first whole blood bag that pools whole blood of a donor; a leukapheresis filter connected to a downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a second whole blood bag connected through the leukapheresis filter to a downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a recovery liquid bag connected to an upstream side of the leukapheresis filter, and pooling a rinsing liquid for recovering residual blood from the leukapheresis filter; and a residual blood recovery bag connected to a downstream side of the leukapheresis filter.

(14) According to the method for producing a platelet lysate, the production system, and the bag set according to the aforementioned aspects, a platelet lysate can be efficiently produced with a simple device structure. In addition, further concentration of the platelet concentrate, prior to freezing, can reduce (compress) the volume of the platelet concentrate to be frozen. Hence, even a small refrigeration facility can produce a platelet lysate collected from a large number of donors. Moreover, small volume of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate to be handled can ensure good workability.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is an explanatory drawing illustrating an overall structure of a system for producing a platelet lysate of a first embodiment.
- (2) FIG. 2 is a plan view illustrating a concentration bag set.
- (3) FIG. 3 is a plan view illustrating a recovery bag set.
- (4) FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a centrifuge.
- (5) FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating a method for producing a platelet lysate according to the first embodiment.
- (6) FIG. 6 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps up to pooling of buffy coat in FIG. 5 in sequence.
- (7) FIG. 7 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps up to collection of platelet concentrate in sequence.
- (8) FIG. 8 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps up to transfer of platelet concentrate in sequence.
- (9) FIG. 9 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps up to preparation of highly concentrated platelet concentrate in sequence.
- (10) FIG. 10 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps up to pooling of highly concentrated platelet concentrate in sequence.
- (11) FIG. 11 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps up to collection of platelet lysate in sequence.
- (12) FIG. 12 is a plan view illustrating a concentration bag set according to a second embodiment.
- (13) FIG. 13 is an explanatory drawing illustrating steps of concentration and rinsing of platelet concentrate according to the second embodiment in sequence.
- (14) FIG. 14 is a block diagram illustrating a bag set according to a third embodiment.
- (15) FIG. 15 is a flowchart illustrating a method for producing a platelet lysate according to a third embodiment.
- (16) FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating a bag set according to a fourth embodiment.
- (17) FIG. 17 is a flowchart illustrating a method for producing a platelet lysate according to a fourth embodiment.
- (18) FIG. 18A is a block diagram illustrating a bag set according to a modified example of the fourth embodiment, and FIG. 18B is a block diagram illustrating a bag set for recovering platelet from a leukapheresis filter in FIG. 18A.
- (19) FIG. 19 is a block diagram illustrating a mode of connection of a bag set during recovery of platelet in the fourth embodiment.
- (20) FIG. 20 is a block diagram illustrating a bag set according to a fifth embodiment.
- (21) FIG. 21 is a flowchart illustrating a method for producing a platelet lysate according to the fifth embodiment.
- (22) FIG. 22 is an explanatory drawing illustrating flow of liquid in a bag set, in the method for producing a platelet lysate according to the fifth embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

- (23) Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be detailed below, referring to the attached drawings. Note although each bag used in the following embodiments is provided with a connection port (transfer port) to which a tube is connected, the connection port may have, at least in a part thereof, a click chip (easily tearable part) which can be snapped off or opened.

First Embodiment

- (24) The method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment is conducted typically at a blood center where blood collected from donors is processed to produce various blood products, by

using a production system **10** that includes a centrifuge **18** and a refrigerated storage **20** installed in the blood center.

(25) As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the production system **10** for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment includes a platelet collection set **12**, a concentration bag set **14**, a recovery bag set **16**, the centrifuge **18**, and the refrigerated storage **20**.

(26) The platelet collection set **12** is used for removing leukocyte from buffy coat BC obtained by centrifuging whole blood WB to extract platelet concentrate PC, and is provided as a disposable product. The platelet collection set **12** includes a BC separation bag **12a**, a leukapheresis filter **12b**, and a PC recovery bag **12c**.

(27) The BC separation bag **12a** is provided with a transfer tube **12d** and a transfer tube **12e**. As illustrated in FIG. **6**, the transfer tube **12d** is connected to a branch **12g** through a clamp **12f**, and is connected through the branch **12g** to a plurality of BC bags **13**. That is, the transfer tube **12d** constitutes a flow channel through which the buffy coat BC pooled in the BC bags **13** is transferred to the BC separation bag **12a**.

(28) The transfer tube **12e** communicates the BC separation bag **12a** and the PC recovery bag **12c**. The transfer tube **12e** constitutes a flow channel through which the platelet concentrate PC, which is a supernatant obtained by centrifuging the buffy coat BC, is transferred to the PC recovery bag **12c**. The leukapheresis filter **12b** is provided on the way of the transfer tube **12e**. The leukapheresis filter **12b** is given to remove leukocyte that remains in the supernatant being transferred.

(29) The BC separation bag **12a** has a capacity enough to pool the buffy coat BC collected from a plurality of donors. Although not particularly limited, this embodiment will be explained referring to an exemplary case where a single BC separation bag **12a** pools the buffy coats BC collected from five donors. This case may employ the BC separation bag **12a** typically with a capacity of approximately 600 ml.

(30) The PC recovery bag **12c** is devised to communicate with the BC separation bag **12a** through the transfer tube **12e**, and is devised to pool the platelet concentrate PC separated by the BC separation bag **12a**. The PC recovery bag **12c** adoptable here typically has a capacity of approximately 600 ml.

(31) As illustrated in FIG. **2**, the concentration bag set **14** is used for concentrating the platelet concentrate PC to extract the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC, and is provided as a disposable product. The concentration bag set **14** includes a PC concentration bag **14a**, a supernatant recovery bag **14b**, and a transfer tube **14d** that connects the PC concentration bag **14a** and the supernatant recovery bag **14b**.

(32) The PC concentration bag **14a** is devised to transfer the platelet concentrate PC pooled in the PC recovery bag **12c**, and to concentrate the platelet concentrate PC while being set on the centrifuge **18**. The PC concentration bag **14a** is a container formed by superposing a pair of rectangular resin sheets, and sealing the circumference **143**. A connection tube **14c** and a transfer port **14f** extend from one end **141** of the PC concentration bag **14a**. A coupling tube **14g** extends from the other end **142** opposite to the one end **141**.

(33) The connection tube **14c** and the coupling tube **14g** communicate with the inside of the PC concentration bag **14a**. In a shipping form, the end of the connection tube **14c** and the end of the coupling tube **14g** are sealed by welding. The connection tube **14c** or the coupling tube **14g** is optionally connectable to other tube, by using an unillustrated aseptic joint.

(34) The connection tube **14c** is connected to the PC recovery bag **12c** in FIG. **1** and serves as a flow channel through which the platelet concentrate PC in the PC recovery bag **12c** is transferred. The connection tube **14c** is also connected to the coupling tube **14g** of another PC concentration bag **14a**, and serves as a flow channel through which the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC is transferred to the recovery bag set **16**. The coupling tube **14g** is connected to another PC concentration bag **14a** to form a flow channel through which the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC is transferred.

(35) The transfer tube **14d** is connected to the transfer port **14f** of the PC concentration bag **14a**. Through the transfer tube **14d**, the PC concentration bag **14a** and the supernatant recovery bag **14b** communicate with each other. The transfer tube **14d** forms a flow channel through which the supernatant of the platelet concentrate PC, produced in the PC concentration bag **14a** after being centrifuged, is transferred to the supernatant recovery bag **14b**. The transfer tube **14d** is allowed for attachment of a clamp **34** (see FIG. 4) of the centrifuge **18**, a sensor **32**, a pump and so forth described later.

(36) The supernatant recovery bag **14b** recovers the supernatant of the platelet concentrate PC. After completion of concentration of the platelet concentrate PC, the transfer tube **14d** is cut, whereby the supernatant recovery bag **14b** is separated from the PC concentration bag **14a** and collected. The PC concentration bag **14a** separated from the supernatant recovery bag **14b** is subjected to freezing process in the refrigerated storage **20**, followed by thawing process. The supernatant in the supernatant recovery bag **14b** is plasma which may be used as raw plasma.

(37) Capacity of the PC concentration bag **14a** and the supernatant recovery bag **14b** may be equivalent to the capacity of the PC recovery bag **12c**. Although not particularly limited, in a case where the buffy coats BC collected from five donors are handled as one lot, a capacity of approximately 300 ml will suffice for the PC concentration bag **14a** and the supernatant recovery bag **14b**. In this case, the platelet concentrate PC pooled in the PC concentration bag **14a** will amount approximately 250 ml, and the volume of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC that remains in the PC concentration bag **14a** after concentration will be reduced to approximately 25 ml.

(38) As illustrated in FIG. 3, the recovery bag set **16** is used to separate and recover the platelet lysate PL from the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawed, and is provided as a disposable product. The recovery bag set **16** includes a PL separation bag **16a**, a PL recovery bag **16b** that recovers the platelet lysate PL, and a transfer tube **16d** that connects the PL separation bag **16a** and the PL recovery bag **16b**.

(39) The PL separation bag **16a** is devised to pool the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC pooled in the plurality of PC concentration bags **14a**, to separate the platelet lysate PL from residue of platelet membrane. The PL separation bag **16a**, which is intended for use in the freezing and thawing processes, is preferably composed of a material unbreakable in the freezing and thawing processes. Hence as the material of the PL separation bag **16a**, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer (EVA) resin is more preferred over polyvinyl alcohol (PVC) resin having been used for ordinary blood bag or the like. EVA resin is suitable for the PL separation bag **16a**, also since it is, by its nature, less likely to have plasma proteins adsorbed thereon.

(40) The PL separation bag **16a** is further provided with a connection tube **16e** and a transfer port **16f**. As illustrated in FIG. 10, the connection tube **16e** is connected to the plurality of PC concentration bags **14a** through branches **16j**, and forms a flow channel through which the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC in the PC concentration bags **14a** is transferred to the PL separation bag **16a**. As illustrated in FIG. 3, a transfer tube **16d** is connected to the transfer port **16f**. That is, the PL separation bag **16a** and the PL recovery bag **16b** communicate with each other through the transfer tube **16d**.

(41) The transfer tube **16d** forms a flow channel through which the platelet lysate PL, which is a supernatant of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC centrifuged in the PL separation bag **16a**, is transferred. The transfer tube **16d** is also provided with a foreign substance removal filter **16c** for removing foreign substances (approximately 0.2 μm) such as viruses contained in the platelet lysate PL, whereby the platelet lysate PL, from which the foreign substances have been removed by the foreign substance removal filter **16c**, is recovered in the PL recovery bag **16b**.

(42) The PL recovery bag **16b** recovers the platelet lysate PL. The PL recovery bag **16b** may be provided with a sampling pouch **16h** for sampling the content.

(43) An ordinary blood bag is applicable to the PL separation bag **16a** and the PL recovery bag **16b**.

In an exemplary case where the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC in twenty PC concentration bags **14a** (that is, contributed by 100 donors) is pooled, the PL separation bag **16a** and the PL recovery bag **16b** may have a nominal capacity of 600 ml.

(44) The centrifuge **18**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**, is a device repeatedly used in the process of producing the platelet lysate PL. The centrifuge **18** includes a box-shaped device body **22**, and a rotor **30** (centrifugal unit) rotatably provided in the device body **22**.

(45) The device body **22** functions to internally or externally hold each bag of the platelet collection set **12**, the concentration bag set **14** and the recovery bag set **16**, and to control centrifugation of a predetermined component in each bag. The device body **22** has a control unit **26** that accepts operation for centrifugation, displays the mode of operation, and controls operation of the individual units. The platelet collection set **12**, the concentration bag set **14**, and the recovery bag set **16** are housed in an insert unit **28** and then set in the rotor **30**.

(46) The insert unit **28** has, as illustrated in FIG. **4**, the sensor **32**, a clamp **34**, and a pump (not illustrated) attached thereto. The insert unit **28** has also arranged thereto a pressing unit **33** that presses the platelet collection set **12**, the concentration bag set **14** and the recovery bag set **16**. The sensor **32** detects a state of transfer of a predetermined component through the transfer tubes **12e**, **14d** and **16d**. The sensor **32** may detect changes in light transmittance of the transfer tubes **12e**, **14d** and **16d**. The sensor **32** may alternatively detect displacement of the pressing unit **33** described later.

(47) The rotor **30** of the device body **22** is formed in a cylindrical shape, as illustrated in FIG. **1**, and is circumferentially divided into a plurality of sections, into each of which the insert unit **28** is loaded. The rotor **30** is provided, at the bottom thereof, with an unillustrated rotary drive source for rotating the rotor **30**. The rotor **30** is also provided, at a part thereof adjoining to the inner circumferential side of the insert unit **28**, with the pressing unit **33** that presses the platelet collection set **12**, the concentration bag set **14** and the recovery bag set **16** attached to the insert unit **28**.

(48) The insert unit **28** is made detachable from the rotor **30**, and is allowed for easy attachment of the platelet collection set **12**, the concentration bag set **14**, and the recovery bag set **16**. The individual units of the centrifuge **18** operate under control of the control unit **26**.

(49) The refrigerated storage **20** has, as illustrated in FIG. **1**, a plurality of storage sections **20a**. Each storage section **20a** houses a plurality of PC concentration bags **14a** whose content has been reduced by concentration. In the refrigerated storage **20**, the freezing process of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC takes place.

(50) The platelet lysate production system **10** of this embodiment is thus constructed. Hereinafter, the method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment will be explained.

(51) The method for producing a platelet lysate is conducted according to the procedure illustrated in the flowchart of FIG. **5**. First, in step **S10**, whole blood is collected by a medical worker such as doctor or nurse. Then in step **S20**, the collected blood is centrifuged by using the centrifuge **18** installed in a medical facility, a bloodmobile, a blood center or the like. During centrifugation, erythrocyte, platelet, leukocyte and plasma in the whole blood WB will separate according to their specific gravities. The whole blood WB is therefore separated into concentrated erythrocyte, plasma, and buffy coat BC that appears between the concentrated erythrocyte and the plasma (step **S30**). The buffy coat BC mainly contains platelet and leukocyte.

(52) Then in step **S300**, the leukocyte is removed from the buffy coat BC to collect the platelet concentrate PC. First in step **S40**, the buffy coats BC collected from a plurality of donors are pooled. That is, as illustrated in step **S41** in FIG. **6**, the platelet collection set **12**, a plurality of BC bags **13** that contain the buffy coats BC, and a PAS bag **11** that contains platelet additive solution (PAS) are prepared.

(53) Next in step **S42**, the BC bags **13** and the PAS bag **11** are aseptically connected to the BC separation bag **12a** of the platelet collection set **12**. The clamp **12f** is then opened, and the buffy

coats BC and the platelet additive solution PAS are pooled in the BC separation bag **12a**. Pooling of the buffy coats BC from a plurality of donors can suppress variation among the buffy coats BC. (54) Thereafter, in step **S43**, the transfer tube **12d** is cut to separate the BC bags **13** and the PAS bag **11**, from the platelet collection set **12**.

(55) Next, in step **S50** in FIG. 5, the buffy coat BC pooled in the platelet collection set **12** is centrifuged on the centrifuge **18**. That is, as illustrated in step **S51** in FIG. 7, the platelet collection set **12** is set on the centrifuge **18**, and a centrifugal force is applied to the BC separation bag **12a**. The buffy coat BC in the BC separation bag **12a** is consequently separated, as illustrated in step **S52**, into a suspension that contains erythrocyte and leukocyte, and a supernatant which is a plasma (platelet-rich plasma) rich in platelet.

(56) Next as illustrated in step **S53**, the supernatant in the BC separation bag **12a** is transferred to the PC recovery bag **12c**, while applying the centrifugal force by rotating the rotor **30** of the centrifuge **18**. When transferred through the transfer tube **12e** to the PC recovery bag **12c**, the supernatant in the BC separation bag **12a** passes through the leukapheresis filter **12b**. This removes the leukocyte that remains in the supernatant. The platelet concentrate PC is thus recovered in the PC recovery bag **12c**.

(57) As illustrated in step **S54**, the centrifuge **18** stops the operation of the centrifugal unit upon detection, by the sensor **32**, of leakage of erythrocyte from the BC separation bag **12a**. Then in step **S60**, the platelet collection set **12** is taken out from the centrifuge **18**, and the PC recovery bag **12c** is separated by cutting from the BC separation bag **12a**, thereby completing collection of the platelet concentrate PC.

(58) Next in step **S70** in FIG. 5, the platelet concentrate PC collected in step **S60** is transferred to the concentration bag set **14**. That is, as illustrated in step **S71** in FIG. 8, the concentration bag set **14** and the PC recovery bag **12c** that pools the platelet concentrate PC are prepared.

(59) Next, in step **S72**, the PC recovery bag **12c** and the PC concentration bag **14a** are aseptically connected through the connection tube **14c**. The platelet concentrate PC in the PC recovery bag **12c** is then transferred to the PC concentration bag **14a**.

(60) Next, in step **S73**, the connection tube **14c** is cut to separate the PC recovery bag **12c**. Thus, the transfer process in step **S70** in FIG. 5 is completed.

(61) Next, in step **S400**, a highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC is prepared. First, in step **S80**, the platelet concentrate PC is centrifuged. That is, in step **S81** of FIG. 9, the concentration bag set **14** is set on the centrifuge **18**, and the rotor **30** of the centrifuge **18** is rotated to apply centrifugal force to the PC concentration bag **14a** of the concentration bag set **14**. Consequently as illustrated in step **S82**, the platelet concentrate PC in the PC concentration bag **14a** is separated into plasma rich in water, and highly concentrated platelet concentrate (CPC) rich in platelet. The plasma is separated as a supernatant.

(62) Next, the process advances to step **S90** in FIG. 5, where the plasma is recovered. That is, in step **S91** in FIG. 9, the centrifuge **18** drives the pressing unit **33** to press the PC concentration bag **14a** while keeping the centrifugal unit (rotor **30**) operated, thereby transferring the supernatant plasma to the supernatant recovery bag **14b**. Then in step **S92**, the centrifuge **18** detects the state of transfer of the plasma to the supernatant recovery bag **14b**, or displacement of the pressing unit **33** with use of the sensor **32**, and stops the operation of the centrifugal unit.

(63) Then in step **S93**, the concentration bag set **14** is detached from the centrifuge **18**. Then, in step **S100**, the transfer tube **14d** is cut to separate the supernatant recovery bag **14b** from the PC concentration bag **14a**. The PC concentration bag **14a** has left therein the platelet concentrate, whereby concentration of platelet in the PC concentration bag **14a** comes to the end. The volume of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC in the PC concentration bag **14a** is reduced down to approximately 1/10 of the volume of the original platelet concentrate PC. The concentration of the platelet concentrate PC in step **S400** in FIG. 5 is thus completed.

(64) Next, in step **S500** in FIG. 5, the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC is frozen and

thawed. That is, steps **S110** and **S130** for storing the PC concentration bag **14a** in the refrigerated storage **20** thereby freezing the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC, and steps **S120** and **S140** for thawing the frozen highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC, are alternately conducted a plurality of times. Although illustrated as being repeated twice, the number of times of freezing and thawing are not limited thereto, and each may be conducted only once. Alternatively, the freezing and thawing may be repeated three or more times. With the freezing and thawing repeated a plurality of times, platelet membrane may be more thoroughly broken, thereby desirably improving the yield of the platelet lysate PL.

(65) Next, in step **S600**, the platelet lysate PL having been frozen and thawed is recovered. First, in step **S150**, the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawed is pooled. That is, as illustrated in step **S151** in FIG. **10**, a plurality of PC concentration bags **14a** and a recovery bag set **16** are prepared. The plurality of PC connection bags **14a** are connected in series, by connecting the coupling tube **14g** of the PC concentration bag **14a** to the connection tube **14c** of another PC concentration bag **14a**. This enables connection of a large number of PC concentration bags **14a** without increasing the number of branches. Furthermore, a plurality of groups of the series-connected PC concentration bags **14a** are prepared.

(66) Next, in step **S152**, a plurality of groups of PC concentration bags **14a** are connected through branches **16j** to the recovery bag set **16**. A clamp **16g** is then opened to pool the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawed in the PC concentration bags **14a**, into the PL separation bag **16a** of the recovery bag set **16**. In the illustrated example, the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawed in twenty PC concentration bags **14a** is pooled in the PL separation bag **16a**. This means that the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC contributed by 100 donors, having been frozen and thawed, can be pooled in the PL separation bag **16a**, thus achieving homogenized quality.

(67) Next, in step **S153**, the connection tube **16e** is cut, to separate the PC concentration bags **14a** from the recovery bag set **16**. The pooling process of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawing, in step **S150** in FIG. **5**, is thus completed.

(68) Next, in step **S160** in FIG. **5**, the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawed is centrifuged. That is, in step **S161** in FIG. **11**, the recovery bag set **16** is set on the centrifuge **18**, and the centrifuge **18** is operated to apply centrifugal force to the PL separation bag **16a**. Consequently as illustrated in step **S162**, the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC having been frozen and thawed in the PL separation bag **16a** is separated into a residue of the cell membrane and a supernatant composed of the platelet lysate PL.

(69) Next, in step **S170** in FIG. **5**, the supernatant is recovered. That is, in step **S171** in FIG. **11**, the centrifuge **18** presses the PL separation bag **16a**, while keeping the centrifugal force applied to the PL separation bag **16a**. The supernatant composed of the platelet lysate PL is consequently transferred through the transfer tube **16d** to the PL recovery bag **16b**. In this process, the supernatant composed of the platelet lysate PL is sterilized (including removal of foreign substances such as virus) as a result of passage through the foreign substance removal filter **16c**.

(70) Thereafter, in step **S172**, the centrifuge **18** recovers a specified volume of platelet lysate PL into the PL recovery bag **16b**, and then stops the operation.

(71) Then as illustrated in step **S173**, the recovery bag set **16** is detached from the centrifuge **18**, and the PL recovery bag **16b** is cut off to recover the platelet lysate PL. Production of the platelet lysate PL of this embodiment is thus completed. The PL recovery bag **16b** pools, for example, the platelet lysate PL contributed by 100 donors.

(72) The method for producing a platelet lysate, the production system **10**, and the recovery bag set **16** of this embodiment described above demonstrate the following effects.

(73) According to the method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment, the platelet concentrate PC is concentrated before being frozen. This enables reduction of volume of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC in the PC concentration bag **14a** to be frozen, making it

possible to subject platelet collected from a large number of donors to the freezing process, even in a small-scale refrigerated storage **20**. Moreover, even when pooling the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC contributed by a large number of donors for recovery of platelet lysate PL, the method will excel in operability, since the volume will not be excessively large.

(74) In the method for producing a platelet lysate, the steps (steps **S70** and **S400**) of preparing the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC may include a step (step **S70**) of transferring the platelet concentrate PC contributed by a plurality of donors to the PC concentration bag **14a**; a step (step **S80**) of setting the PC concentration bag **14a** on the centrifuge **18**, and centrifuging the platelet concentrate PC; and a step (step **S90**) of transferring, and thus removing, a supernatant in the PC concentration bag **14a** to the supernatant recovery bag **14b**. This enables removal of water (plasma), which accounts for the most part of platelet concentrate PC, thereby largely reducing the capacity of the PC concentration bags **14a** to be put into the process.

(75) In the method for producing a platelet lysate, the step of recovering the platelet lysate PL (step **S600**) may include a step of pooling the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC pooled in the plurality of PC concentration bags **14a** in the PL separation bag **16a** (step **S150**); a step of setting the PL separation bag **16a** on the centrifuge **18** to separate the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC into a precipitate composed of a residue of cell membrane and a supernatant that contains the platelet lysate PL (step **S160**); and a step of recovering the supernatant that contains the platelet lysate PL in the PL recovery bag **16b** (step **S170**). Pooling of the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC enables production of formulation by using platelet contributed by a large number of donors, even with use of a small-scale equipment. Homogenized quality may be thus achieved.

(76) In the production of the platelet lysate, the step of freezing and thawing the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC may be repeated a plurality of times. This enables more effective breakage of platelet membrane, and efficient extraction of the platelet lysate PL.

(77) The platelet lysate production system **10** of this embodiment may include: the concentration bag set **14** that includes the PC concentration bag **14a** that pools the platelet concentrate PC, and the supernatant recovery bag **14b** connected through the transfer tube **14d** to the PC concentration bag **14a**; and the centrifuge **18** that includes the rotor **30** that applies a centrifugal force to the concentration bag set **14**, the pressing unit **33** that pressurizes the PC concentration bag **14a** to transfer the supernatant in the PC concentration bag **14a** to the supernatant recovery bag **14b**, and the sensor **32** that detects volume of transfer of the supernatant. The centrifuge **18** may be devised to transfer a specified amount of the supernatant, having been obtained by centrifuging the platelet concentrate PC in the PC concentration bag **14a**, into the supernatant recovery bag **14b**, and then to stop the rotor **30**. This enables concentration process of the platelet concentrate PC without manual intervention, whereby the productivity is improved.

(78) The concentration bag set **14** of this embodiment includes the PC concentration bag **14a** provided with the connection tube **14c**, the transfer port **14f**, and the coupling tube **14g**; the transfer tube **14d** connected to the transfer port **14f**; and the supernatant recovery bag **14b** connected through the transfer tube **14d** to the PC concentration bag **14a**. Provision of the coupling tube **14g**, in addition to the connection tube **14c**, enables series connection of the plurality of PC concentration bags **14a**, thereby improving workability when recovering the platelet lysate PL.

(79) In the concentration bag set **14**, the PC concentration bag **14a** may have the connection tube **14c** and the transfer port **14f** formed at one end, and may have the coupling tube **14g** provided at the other end opposite to the connection tube **14c**. In such structure with the plurality of PC concentration bags **14a** connected in series, while arranging the connection tube **14c** and the coupling tube **14g** vertically, the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC may be easily gathered with the aid of gravity, whereby the workability is improved.

Second Embodiment

(80) This embodiment will explain an exemplary case of the method for producing a platelet lysate

having been described referring to FIGS. 1 to 11, with an additional step of removing the plasma component and coagulation factors from the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC with use of a rinsing liquid, in the step of concentrating the platelet concentrate PC (step S400).

(81) As illustrated in FIG. 12, the concentration bag set 14A of this embodiment includes the PC concentration bag 14a, the supernatant recovery bag 14b, and additionally a rinsing liquid bag 14h. The rinsing liquid bag 14h pools a rinsing liquid which is composed of platelet additive solution PAS, saline or the like. The rinsing liquid bag 14h is connected through a rinsing liquid tube 14i to the PC concentration bag 14a. The rinsing liquid tube 14i is connected, as illustrated in the drawing, to the PC concentration bag 14a at the same end as the coupling tube 14g. That is, the rinsing liquid tube 14i is provided at the end opposite to the end where the transfer tube 14d is formed. When centrifuged, the separated highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC is condensed towards the outer wall of the centrifuge. An effect of stirring the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC with the rinsing liquid is expectable, by introducing the rinsing liquid through the rinsing liquid tube 14i into the PC concentration bag 14a, during centrifugation.

(82) The supernatant recovery bag 14b of this embodiment pools the rinsing liquid from the rinsing liquid bag 14h, together with the plasma separated from the PC concentration bag 14a. The supernatant recovery bag 14b therefore preferably has a capacity larger than the capacity of the PC concentration bag 14a, and the volume of the rinsing liquid pooled in the rinsing liquid bag 14h.

(83) Hereinafter, the method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment will be explained. The steps up to the step of setting the concentration bag set 14A on the centrifuge 18, and conducting centrifugation by applying a centrifugal force to the PC concentration bag 14a are the same as those in FIG. 8. Then in step S91A in FIG. 13, when recovering the separated supernatant, the rinsing liquid in the rinsing liquid bag 14h is fed into the PC concentration bag 14a, to rinse the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC. In this way, the plasma in the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC is replaced with the rinsing liquid, and coagulation factors such as fibrinogen in the highly concentrated platelet concentrate CPC are rinsed off with the rinsing liquid.

(84) The rinsing liquid is transferred to the supernatant recovery bag 14b together with the separated plasma. The centrifuge 18 detects completion of the transfer of a specified volume of the rinsing liquid and plasma, on the basis of result of detection by the sensor 32, and stops the operation (step S92A). The concentration and rinsing steps of the platelet concentrate PC, in the method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment, are thus completed.

(85) The method for producing a platelet lysate and the concentration bag set 14A of this embodiment described above demonstrate the following effects.

(86) The method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment feeds the rinsing liquid to the PC concentration bag 14a to rinse the platelet concentrate PC, when centrifuging the platelet concentrate PC in the PC concentration bag 14a. In this way, the plasma in the platelet concentrate PC is replaced with the rinsing liquid, and coagulation factors such as fibrinogen are removed. Hence it becomes no longer necessary to add an anticoagulant such as heparin to the platelet lysate PL.

(87) Moreover, the concentration bag set 14A of this embodiment further includes a rinsing liquid bag 14h that is connected through the rinsing liquid tube 14i to the PC concentration bag 14a, and supplies the rinsing liquid to the PC concentration bag 14a. This enables concentration and rinsing of the platelet concentrate PC.

Third Embodiment

(88) The embodiments having been explained referring to FIGS. 1 to 13 relate to an exemplary mode where the buffy coat BC is separated from the whole blood WB collected from the donor, and the platelet concentrate PC is obtained from the buffy coat BC. The present invention is, however, not limited to these modes. The embodiment explained below will deal with the case where the platelet concentrate PC is directly collected by apheresis from the donor.

(89) For the method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment, a bag set **50** illustrated in FIG. **14** is used. The bag set **50** includes a blood separation chamber **54**, a reservoir **60a**, a plasma bag **60b**, a concentration bag set **68**, a tube **59** connecting them, a cassette **53** having the tube **59**, laid in a predetermined path, held thereon or connected thereto, a blood collection unit **51** equipped with a puncture needle, and an initial flow blood bag **52**. Among them, the cassette **53** is attached to the centrifuge **18** (see FIG. **1**), as a centrifugal unit **58** of the blood separation chamber **54**. The bag set **50** is disposable for one-time use, for contamination prevention and hygienic reasons.

(90) The whole blood WB collected from the blood collection unit **51**, from which the initial flow blood has been recovered in the initial flow blood bag **52**, is introduced into the blood separation chamber **54**. The blood separation chamber **54** is formed in a band-shaped bag, so as to be attachable to the rotor **30** of the centrifuge **18**. The blood separation chamber **54** is a soft bag with a built-in blood separation unit to which the whole blood WB from the donor is fed, and is easily foldable. The whole blood WB introduced into the blood separation unit of the blood separation chamber **54** is centrifuged while it flows one end to the other end.

(91) A leukapheresis chamber **56** is provided near one end of the blood separation chamber **54**. The leukapheresis chamber **56** removes leukocyte from the whole blood WB that flows in the blood separation chamber **54**, with the aid of centrifugal force. To the blood separation chamber **54**, the cassette **53** is connected through a tube **59a**.

(92) The cassette **53** has also connected thereto a tube **59b** and a tube **59c**. The cassette **53** is connected through the tube **59b** to the blood collection unit **51** and the initial flow blood bag **52**. The cassette **53** is also connected through the tube **59c** to the reservoir **60a** and the concentration bag set **68**. The tube **59c** branches on the way into a tube **57a** directed to the reservoir **60a**, a tube **57b** directed to the plasma bag **60b**, and a tube **61** directed to the concentration bag set **68**.

(93) The concentration bag set **68** includes a platelet recovery bag **62**, a platelet lysate bag **66**, and a foreign substance removal filter **64**. The tube **61** has connected thereto the platelet recovery bag **62** in which the platelet separated in the blood separation chamber **54** is pooled. The platelet recovery bag **62** is connected through the tube **63** to the platelet lysate bag **66**. The tube **63** is provided with a foreign substance removal filter **64**.

(94) The whole blood WB introduced from the blood collection unit **51** is fed through the cassette **53** to the blood separation chamber **54**. The whole blood WB is separated in the blood separation chamber **54**, and the separated platelet is pooled in the platelet recovery bag **62** through the tube **61**. Erythrocyte and plasma separated in the blood separation chamber **54** are respectively pooled in the reservoir **60a** and the plasma bag **60b**. From among the separated erythrocyte, a portion thereof beyond the capacity of the blood separation chamber **54** is pooled in the reservoir **60a**. After completion of centrifugation, the erythrocyte is returned to the donor through the blood collection unit **51**. The plasma pooled in the plasma bag **60b** may be used as a raw material for formulation.

(95) Hereinafter, a method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment with use of the bag set **50** will be explained referring to FIG. **15**.

(96) First, blood is collected from the donor by apheresis (step S202). In the apheresis, blood (whole blood WB) is collected, by puncturing the donor with a puncture needle of the blood collection unit **51** of the bag set **50** illustrated in FIG. **14**. After removing the initial flow blood by using the initial flow blood bag **52**, the whole blood WB is fed to the blood separation chamber **54** of the centrifugal unit **58**. In the blood separation chamber **54**, the whole blood WB is separated into leukocyte, platelet, plasma, and erythrocyte. Among them, leukocyte is separated and removed in the leukapheresis chamber **56**. Plasma is pooled in the plasma bag **60b** through the tubes **59a** and **59c**, and the tube **57b**. Erythrocyte is pooled in the reservoir **60a** through the tubes **59a** and **59c**, and the tube **57a**. The erythrocyte pooled in the reservoir **60a** is then returned to the donor.

(97) On the other hand, the platelet concentrate PC is pooled in the platelet recovery bag **62** of the concentration bag set **68** through the tubes **59a**, **59c** and **61** (step S204). In this embodiment, the platelet concentrate PC can be collected in the concentration bag set **68** directly from the donor. In

the concentration bag set **68**, the tube **63** is closed with a clamp or the like in the initial state, so that the platelet recovery bag **62** and the platelet lysate bag **66** do not communicate with each other. (98) Thereafter, the concentration bag set **68** is separated from the bag set **50** (step **S206**). The concentration bag set **68** is aseptically separated by cutting the tube **61**, while concurrently closing the tube by heat welding with a high frequency welder (tube sealer). (99) The separated concentration bag set **68** is then cooled in a freezer to freeze the platelet concentrate PC in the platelet recovery bag **62** (step **S207**). Next, the concentration bag set **68** is returned to room temperature, to thaw the frozen platelet concentrate PC (step **S208**). The freezing and thawing processes (step **S210**) including the aforementioned steps **S207** and **S208** may be repeated a plurality of times. With the operation, platelet membrane is broken to produce the platelet lysate PL. (100) Next, the platelet lysate PL is recovered in the platelet lysate bag **66** (step **S212**). The concentration bag set **68** is set on the centrifuge **18** (see FIG. **1**), to centrifuge the content of the platelet recovery bag **62**. The platelet lysate PL is separated as a supernatant in the platelet recovery bag **62**. Thereafter, the tube **63** is opened to make the platelet recovery bag **62** and the platelet lysate bag **66** communicate with each other, thereby transferring the supernatant in the platelet recovery bag **62** to the platelet lysate bag **66**. While being transferred through the tube **63**, the platelet lysate PL passes through the foreign substance removal filter **64**, whereby any foreign substance is removed. The platelet lysate bag **66**, with the platelet lysate PL recovered therein, is then aseptically separated, by closing the tube **61** under heat welding with a tube sealer. The production of the platelet lysate PL is thus completed. (101) In a case where the bag set **50** has no leukapheresis chamber **56** attached thereto, the platelet concentrate PC can be collected in the concentration bag set **68** by adding a step in which, as illustrated in FIG. **16**, the buffy coat BC that contains platelet and leukocyte is obtained in apheresis (step **S202**), and the buffy coat BC is then centrifuged to remove the leukocyte. (102) Alternatively, the leukocyte may be removed by allowing the whole blood WB obtained from the donor to pass through leukapheresis filter, prior to apheresis by centrifugation (step **S202**). (103) The method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment demonstrates the following effects.

(104) In the method for producing a platelet lysate includes, the step of collecting the platelet-containing component includes a step of centrifuging the whole blood WB from the donor to collect the platelet concentrate PC, and returning other components to the donor; a step of freezing and thawing the platelet concentrate PC; and the step of centrifuging, following freezing and thawing, the platelet concentrate PC to recover the platelet lysate PL. Since only the platelet can be collected from the donor, and the other components can be returned to the donor, so that the donor will be less stressed. Moreover, since the process is simplified and fewer bags will suffice, also the amount of waste can be reduced.

(105) In the aforementioned method for producing a platelet lysate, leukocyte may be removed in the leukapheresis chamber **56**, when the whole blood WB of the donor is centrifuged. An additional step of removing leukocyte will therefore be no longer necessary, and the structure of the bag set **50** can be simplified.

Fourth Embodiment

(106) A bag set **80** of this embodiment illustrated in FIG. **16** is devised, when used for collecting the whole blood WB, so that the platelet can be recovered from the leukapheresis filter **74** which will be discarded after use.

(107) The bag set **80** includes a blood collection unit **51** equipped with a puncture needle, an initial flow blood bag **52** that pools the initial flow blood, a first whole blood bag **70** that pools the whole blood WB coming from the blood collection unit **51**, a second whole blood bag **76** connected to the downstream side of the first whole blood bag **70**, a leukapheresis filter **74** connected between the first whole blood bag **70** and the second whole blood bag **76**, and a preservation liquid bag **78** and a

plasma recovery bag 77 that are connected to the second whole blood bag 76. The bag set 80 further includes a recovery liquid bag 72 connected to the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter 74, and the concentration bag set 68 connected to the upstream side of the leukapheresis filter 74.

(108) The first whole blood bag 70 is made of a flexible resin film or the like, and has a first port 70a and a second port 70b. To the first port 70a of the first whole blood bag 70, there are connected the blood collection unit 51 and the initial flow blood bag 52, through a tube 75a. Meanwhile, to the second port 70b of the first whole blood bag 70 is connected a tube 75b through which the second whole blood bag 76 is connected. The second port 70b is made closable. The tube 75b has, connected therein, the leukapheresis filter 74.

(109) The leukapheresis filter 74 is typically composed of a microfiber nonwoven fabric made of polyester-based ultrafine fiber, so as to remove leukocyte in the whole blood. The tube 75b between the leukapheresis filter 74 and the first whole blood bag 70 is provided with a first valve unit 75c, and the tube 75b between the leukapheresis filter 74 and the second whole blood bag 76 is provided with a second valve unit 75d. To the tube 75b between the first valve unit 75c and the leukapheresis filter 74, the concentration bag set 68 is connected. A clamp 71 is provided between the concentration bag set 68 and the tube 75b. To the tube 75b between the second valve unit 75d and the leukapheresis filter 74, the recovery liquid bag 72 is connected. A clamp 73 is provided between the recovery liquid bag 72 and the tube 75b.

(110) The second whole blood bag 76 has a first port 76a and a second port 76b. To the first port 76a of the second whole blood bag 76, the first whole blood bag 70 is connected through the tube 75b. To the second whole blood bag 76, the whole blood WB from which leukocyte has been removed is introduced through the first port 76a. The second whole blood bag 76 has the tube 79 connected to the second port 76b, and through the tube 79, the plasma recovery bag 77 and the preservation liquid bag 78 are connected.

(111) The preservation liquid bag 78 pools the blood preservation liquid (MAP), so as to enable feeding of the preservation liquid to the whole blood WB in the second whole blood bag 76. The plasma recovery bag 77 is devised to recover the plasma produced when the whole blood WB in the second whole blood bag 76 is centrifuged.

(112) While the bag set 80 of this embodiment is constituted as described above, the concentration bag set 68, the recovery liquid bag 72, the plasma recovery bag 77, and the preservation liquid bag 78 are not always necessarily provided originally. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 18A, a bag set 90, from which the concentration bag set 68 and the recovery liquid bag 72 are omitted, is acceptable. In this case, the concentration bag set 68 and the recovery liquid bag 72 illustrated in FIG. 18B may be connected to the bag set 90 by using an aseptic joint, upon completion of removal of leukocyte from the whole blood WB.

(113) Hereinafter, a method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment will be explained referring to FIG. 17.

(114) First, the whole blood WB is collected from the donor (step S302). As illustrated in FIG. 16, step S302 is conducted so as to puncture the donor's blood vessel with the blood collection unit 51, to remove the initial flow blood with use of the initial flow blood bag 52, and to pool the whole blood WB in the first whole blood bag 70.

(115) Next, in step S304 in FIG. 17, leukocyte and platelet are captured (trapped) on the leukapheresis filter 74. That is, the whole blood WB in the first whole blood bag 70 in FIG. 16 is transferred through the second port 70b and the tube 75b, to the second whole blood bag 76. During the process, as the whole blood WB passes through the leukapheresis filter 74, leukocyte is captured and removed by the leukapheresis filter 74. Together with the leukocyte, also platelet is captured on the leukapheresis filter 74. The second whole blood bag 76 is then detached. The whole blood WB in the second whole blood bag 76 is used for various purposes such as a raw material for formulation or as blood for transfusion. The leukapheresis filter 74, having previously

been discarded as it is, contains platelet which is effective as a cell culture medium as described above. Therefore, in this embodiment, platelet contained in the leukapheresis filter **74** is recovered and used.

(116) That is, in step **S306** in FIG. **17**, the platelet recovery liquid is allowed to flow (flushed reversely) through the leukapheresis filter **74** from the side the whole blood WB flows out, towards the side the whole blood WB flows in. The platelet recovery liquid applicable here may be platelet additive solution (PAS), for example. In step **S306**, in the bag set **80** in FIG. **16**, the first valve unit **75c** and the second valve unit **75d** are closed, and the clamp **71** and the clamp **73** are opened. This makes the recovery liquid bag **72** communicate with the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74**, and makes the concentration bag set **68** communicate with the upstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74**. The platelet recovery liquid in the recovery liquid bag **72** is then pressed out, so as to make the platelet recovery liquid flow (flushed reversely) through the leukapheresis filter **74** for rinsing. The platelet recovered from the leukapheresis filter **74** is recovered in the platelet recovery bag **62** of the concentration bag set **68**, together with the platelet recovery liquid.

(117) Note that the operation in step **S306** may be conducted, as illustrated in FIG. **19**, with the leukapheresis filter **74** detached from the bag set **80**. In this case, the recovery liquid bag **72** is connected to the outflow (downstream) side of the leukapheresis filter **74**, and the concentration bag set **68** is connected to the upstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74**. The platelet having been trapped on the leukapheresis filter **74** may be recovered, by flushing the platelet recovery liquid reversely from the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74**.

(118) Then in step **S308** in FIG. **17**, the concentration bag set **68** is separated. Next in step **S310**, the platelet is concentrated. That is, the concentration bag set **68** is set on the centrifuge **18** (see FIG. **1**), and centrifuged. This causes sedimentation of a platelet-rich liquid, and the other components are separated as a supernatant. Upon removal of the supernatant from the platelet recovery bag **62**, the platelet concentrate PC is obtained in the platelet recovery bag **62**. Note that the centrifugation of the platelet-containing liquid is preferably conducted so as to concurrently remove leukocytes that are harmful to cell culture.

(119) Next in step **S312**, the platelet concentrate PC in the concentration bag set **68** is frozen and thawed. Freezing and thawing in step **S312** may be repeated a plurality of times. Platelet membrane is thus broken.

(120) Next in step **S314**, the platelet lysate PL is recovered. That is, the concentration bag set **68** is set on the centrifuge **18**, and the content of the platelet recovery bag **62** is centrifuged. The platelet lysate PL is thus obtained as a supernatant in the platelet recovery bag **62**. The supernatant is recovered in the platelet lysate bag **66** to obtain the platelet lysate PL.

(121) The method for producing a platelet lysate and the bag set **80** of this embodiment demonstrate the following effects.

(122) The method for producing a platelet lysate according to this embodiment includes: a step (**S302**) of collecting whole blood WB from the donor; a step (**S304**) of allowing the collected whole blood WB to pass through the leukapheresis filter **74** to remove leukocyte; a step (**S306**) of flushing the platelet recovery liquid through the leukapheresis filter **74** through which the whole blood WB has been allowed to pass, in a direction opposite to a flow direction of the whole blood WB, to recover the platelet retained on the leukapheresis filter **74** as the platelet-containing liquid; a step (**S310**) of further centrifuging the platelet-containing liquid to remove a supernatant, and thus concentrating the platelet to prepare a platelet concentrate PC; a step (**S312**) of freezing and thawing the platelet concentrate PC; and a step (**S314**) of centrifuging the platelet concentrate PC, following freezing and thawing, to separate a supernatant which is recovered as the platelet lysate PL. This enables recovery for utilization of platelet from the leukapheresis filter **74** having been discarded after whole blood collection.

(123) In the method for producing a platelet lysate, a step of removing leukocyte from the platelet-containing liquid may take place concurrently with the step (**S310**) of concentrating the platelet-

containing liquid, or prior to the step (S310) of concentrating the platelet-containing liquid. This beneficially removes leukocyte that is harmful to cell culture.

(124) The method for producing a platelet lysate may have a step of pooling the platelet-containing liquid collected from a plurality of donors, prior to the step (S310) of concentrating the platelet-containing liquid. That is, the platelet-containing liquid recovered from the plurality of leukapheresis filters **74** is pooled in the platelet recovery bag **62** in advance, and then centrifuged. This successfully reduces the number of runs of centrifugation, thereby beneficially improving the workability and productivity.

(125) The bag set **80** of this embodiment includes the first whole blood bag **70**; the leukapheresis filter **74** connected to the downstream side of the first whole blood bag **70**; the second whole blood bag **76** connected through the leukapheresis filter **74** to the downstream side of the first whole blood bag **70**; the recovery liquid bag **72** connected to the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74**, and pools a platelet lift-off liquid (recovery liquid) for lifting off platelet from the leukapheresis filter **74**; and the concentration bag set **68** connected to the upstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74**. This enables recovery of platelet, having been adhered on the leukapheresis filter **74** for removing leukocyte from the whole blood WB, into the concentration bag set **68**, with the aid of reverse flushing of the platelet lift-off liquid (recovery liquid).

(126) In the bag set **80**, the concentration bag set **68** may have the platelet recovery bag **62**, and the platelet lysate bag **66** that is connected through the tube **63** to the platelet recovery bag **62**.

Fifth Embodiment

(127) A bag set **80A** of this embodiment illustrated in FIG. **20** enables recovery of platelet, concurrently with collection of red cell concentrate (RCC) and platelet poor plasma (PPP) by centrifugation of the whole blood WB.

(128) In the bag set **80A** of this embodiment, all components similar to those of the bag set **80** in FIG. **16** are denoted by the same reference numerals, to skip the detailed explanation. As illustrated, the bag set **80A** has a second whole blood bag **76A** which is connected downstream of the first whole blood bag **70**, through the leukapheresis filter **74A**. The leukapheresis filter **74A** is provided in the middle of the tube **75b** that connects the first whole blood bag **70** and the second whole blood bag **76A**. A recovery liquid bag **72A** is connected to the tube **75b** on the upstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74A**, and a residual blood recovery bag **62A** is connected to the tube **75b** on the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74A**.

(129) The leukapheresis filter **74A** is typically composed of a microfiber nonwoven fabric made of polyester-based ultrafine fiber, so as to remove white blood cell (WBC) in the whole blood, while allowing platelet to pass therethrough. The recovery liquid bag **72A** is connected through the clamp **73** to the tube **75b**. The recovery liquid bag **72A** pools therein a rinsing liquid such as platelet additive solution (PAS).

(130) The residual blood recovery bag **62A** is connected to the tube **75b** through a clamp **83**. The residual blood recovery bag **62A** is used to recover residual blood that remained on the leukapheresis filter **74A**, after completion of transfer of the whole blood to the second whole blood bag **76A**. The residual blood recovery bag **62A** is given as a bag made of a flexible resin adaptable to centrifugation. The residual blood recovery bag **62A** may have connected thereto a separation bag **66A**, aiming at facilitating separation and recovery of a platelet-containing component obtained by centrifugation. The recovery bag set **68A** in this case is composed of the residual blood recovery bag **62A** and the separation bag **66A**.

(131) The second whole blood bag **76A** is a top-and-bottom bag that has the ports (outlet ports) provided on the upper and lower sides thereof, with the first port **76a** and the second port **76b** arranged on the upper side, and with a third port **76c** arranged on the lower side, as in the illustrated example. To the upper first port **76a**, the tube **75b** is connected. To the second port **76b**, the plasma recovery bag **77** is connected through the tube **79**. The plasma recovery bag **77** pools the platelet poor plasma (PPP) centrifuged in the second whole blood bag **76A**. The second port **76b** is

provided with an easily tearable part which is kept closed until just before transfer of the platelet poor plasma.

(132) To the third port **76c** of the second whole blood bag **76A**, an erythrocyte bag **84** is connected through a tube **82**. The erythrocyte bag **84** pools the concentrated erythrocyte centrifuged in the second whole blood bag **76A**. The third port **76c** is provided with an easily tearable part which is kept closed until just before transfer of the concentrated erythrocyte. To the erythrocyte bag **84**, the preservation liquid bag **78** is connected through a tube **86**.

(133) The preservation liquid bag **78** has enclosed therein an erythrocyte preservation liquid such as MAP solution. The tube **86** that connects the preservation liquid bag **78** and the erythrocyte bag **84** has, at the end thereof, an easily tearable part which is torn and opened just before use.

(134) Hereinafter, the method for producing a platelet lysate of this embodiment will be explained referring to FIGS. **21** and **22**.

(135) First, the whole blood WB is collected from the donor (step **S401**). The whole blood WB of the donor is pooled in the first whole blood bag **70**.

(136) Next, the whole blood WB in the first whole blood bag **70** is transferred through the tube **75b** to the second whole blood bag **76A**. During the process, leukocyte in the whole blood is removed by the leukapheresis filter **74A** (step **S402**). Upon completion of transfer of the whole blood to the second whole blood bag **76A**, the second valve unit **75d** is closed.

(137) Next, the residual blood on the leukapheresis filter **74A** is recovered (step **S403**). The residual blood is recovered by closing the first valve unit **75c** and the second valve unit **75d** in FIG. **22**, opening the clamps **73** and **83**, and flushing the platelet additive solution PAS (rinsing liquid) in the recovery liquid bag **72A** towards the residual blood recovery bag **62A**. The leukapheresis filter **74A** is rinsed with the platelet additive solution PAS, and the rinsate is pooled in the residual blood recovery bag **62A**.

(138) Thereafter, the residual blood recovery bag **62A** is separated from the tube **75b**, at point A in FIG. **22** (step **S404**). The separation from the tube **75b** is aseptically conducted by using an aseptic cutting device, by which the end is cut and heat-welded at the same time. In step **S404**, also the tube **75b** is cut on the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter **74** (at point B in FIG. **22**), thereby separating the second whole blood bag **76A**.

(139) Next, the second whole blood bag **76A**, the plasma recovery bag **77**, the erythrocyte bag **84**, and the preservation liquid bag **78** are set on the centrifuge **18** (see FIG. **1**), and the whole blood in the second whole blood bag **76A** is centrifuged (step **S405**). By the centrifugation, the whole blood in the second whole blood bag **76A** is separated into platelet-poor plasma (PPP), platelet-rich plasma (PRP), and red cell concentrate (RCC) when viewed from the upper layer side. The platelet-poor plasma (PPP) is then transferred to the plasma recovery bag **77**, and the red cell concentrate (RCC) is transferred to the erythrocyte bag **84**. In the second whole blood bag **76A**, the platelet-rich plasma (PRP) remains.

(140) Next, for the purpose of concentrating the platelet-rich plasma (PRP) that remains in the second whole blood bag **76A** to obtain the platelet concentrate (PC), the second whole blood bag **76A** is then subjected to secondary centrifugation (step **S406**).

(141) Thereafter, the platelet lysate is produced according to the processes having been explained referring to steps **S80** to **S170** in FIG. **5**.

(142) Also the residual blood recovery bag **62A** in FIG. **22** is centrifuged, thereby separating the buffy coat BC from the residual blood. The buffy coat BC separated in the residual blood recovery bag **62A** is pooled, and the platelet lysate is produced according to the processes having been explained referring to steps **S40** to **S170** in FIG. **5**.

(143) As described above, in this embodiment, platelet is allowed to pass through the leukapheresis filter **74A** (only leukocyte is removed), and the thus filtered whole blood is centrifuged to be separated into three layers, which are the platelet-poor plasma PPP, the platelet-rich plasma PRP, and concentrated erythrocyte RCC. Then, the platelet-rich plasma (PRP), which is a middle layer

component remained in the second whole blood bag **76A**, is processed to obtain the platelet concentrate (PC). In addition, the blood (whole blood) remaining on the leukapheresis filter **74** is rinsed (washed) with the platelet additive solution PAS, and the rinsate is recovered and centrifuged in the residual blood recovery bag **62A**. This enables recovery of platelet without waste both from the whole blood having been passed through the leukapheresis filter **74A**, and from the blood that remains on the leukapheresis filter **74A**.

(144) Having been explained the present invention referring to preferred embodiments, the present invention is not limited to the aforementioned embodiments, and may of course be modified in various ways without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

Claims

1. A bag set for recovering platelet from a leukapheresis filter, the bag set comprising: a first whole blood bag that pools whole blood of a donor; a leukapheresis filter connected to a downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a second whole blood bag connected through the leukapheresis filter to the downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a recovery liquid bag connected to a downstream side of the leukapheresis filter, and pooling a platelet recovery liquid for recovering platelet from the leukapheresis filter; a concentration bag set connected to an upstream side of the leukapheresis filter, wherein the concentration bag set includes a platelet recovery bag and a platelet lysate bag connected through a tube and a filter to the platelet recovery bag; and a first tube that connects the first whole blood bag to the second whole blood bag through the leukapheresis filter, wherein the first tube includes: a first branch that connects to the platelet recovery bag; and a second branch that connects to the recovery liquid bag.
 2. The bag set according to claim 1, further comprising: a valve positioned in the first tube between the first whole blood bag and the first branch of the first tube.
 3. A bag set for recovering platelet from a leukapheresis filter, the bag set comprising: a first whole blood bag that pools whole blood of a donor; a leukapheresis filter connected to a downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a second whole blood bag connected through the leukapheresis filter to the downstream side of the first whole blood bag; a recovery liquid bag connected to an upstream side of the leukapheresis filter, and pooling a rinsing liquid for recovering residual blood from the leukapheresis filter; a residual blood recovery bag connected to a downstream side of the leukapheresis filter; a recovery bag set connected to the downstream side of the leukapheresis filter through a clamp, wherein the recovery bag set includes the residual blood recovery bag and a separation bag connected through a first tube to the residual blood recovery bag; and a second tube that connects the first whole blood bag to the second whole blood bag through the leukapheresis filter, wherein the second tube includes: a first branch that connects to the recovery liquid bag; and a second branch that connects to the residual blood recovery bag.
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