

Oct 05, 2018

Working

## Nuclei isolation from human kidney for single-nucleus RNA-seq

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Human Cell Atlas Method Development Community



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### ABSTRACT

This protocol is based upon [Habib, N et al., Nature Methods 14: 955-958, 2017](#) and [Basu et al., Protocol Exchange 2017: DroNc-seq step-by-step](#) with adaptations for adult human kidney including: Tissue mincing, homogenization strokes, addition of protease inhibitor and RNasin and adjustments to strainer size and sequence.

### THIS PROTOCOL ACCOMPANIES THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION

This protocol is based upon [Habib, N et al., Nature Methods 14: 955-958, 2017](#) and [Basu et al., Protocol Exchange 2017: DroNc-seq step-by-step](#)

□  
Nuclei isolation  
protocol.pdf

### PROTOCOL STATUS

#### Working

We use this protocol in our group and it is working

### GUIDELINES














All steps are performed on ice or in cold room (4°C) to minimize RNA degradation.

### Storage temperatures

Reagent	Storage
1x DPBS	4°C
Nuclei EZ Lysis Buffer	4°C
cOmplete ULTRA Tablets, Mini, EDTA-free, EASYpack	4°C
RNasin Plus Ribonuclease Inhibitors	-20°C
SUPERaseIN RNase Inhibitor	-20°C
RNase free H <sub>2</sub> O	RT
RNase Zap	RT

### MATERIALS

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
 1x DPBS	14190144	Gibco - Thermo Fischer
 Nuclei EZ Lysis Buffer	N-3408	Sigma

NAME ▾	CATALOG # ▾	VENDOR ▾
 cOmplete ULTRA Tablets, Mini, EDTA-free, EASYpack	<a href="#">05 892 791 001</a>	<a href="#">Roche</a>
 RNasin Plus Ribonuclease Inhibitors	<a href="#">N2615</a>	<a href="#">Promega</a>
 SUPERaseIN RNase Inhibitor	<a href="#">AM2696</a>	<a href="#">Thermo Fisher Scientific</a>
 RNase free H <sub>2</sub> O	<a href="#">AM9938</a>	<a href="#">Thermo Scientific</a>
 RNaseZap	<a href="#">AM9780</a>	<a href="#">Ambion</a>
 KONTES Dounce Tissue Grinders	<a href="#">KT 885300-0002</a>	<a href="#">Kimble Chase</a>
 pluriStrainer 200 µm	<a href="#">43-50200</a>	<a href="#">pluriSelect</a>
 pluriStrainer 40 µm	<a href="#">43-50040</a>	<a href="#">pluriSelect</a>
 pluriStrainer 5 µm	<a href="#">43-50005</a>	<a href="#">pluriSelect</a>
 Fuchs-Rosenthal disposable hemocytometer	<a href="#">DHC-F015</a>	<a href="#">INCYTO</a>
 Falcon 15 mL Polystyrene Conical Tube	<a href="#">352095</a>	<a href="#">Fisher Scientific</a>
 RNase-free 50 ml Conical Tubes	<a href="#">AM12502</a>	<a href="#">Ambion</a>
 TPP 60mm Tissue Culture Dishes	<a href="#">TP93060</a>	<a href="#">MIDSCI</a>

#### BEFORE STARTING

### Buffers and Solutions

Nuclei lysis buffer 0 (NLB0) working solution

- 10 ml of Nuclei EZ Lysis Buffer
- 1 tablet of cOmplete ULTRA tablets

Nuclei lysis buffer 1 (NLB1) working solution - make 4 ml per < 8 mm<sup>3</sup> tissue

- 4 ml of NLB0
- 20 µl of RNasin Plus
- 20 µl of SUPERaseIN

Nuclei lysis buffer 2 (NLB2) working solution - make 4 ml per < 8 mm<sup>3</sup> tissue

- 4 ml of Nuclei EZ Lysis Buffer
- 4 µl of RNasin Plus
- 4 µl of SUPERaseIN

Nuclei suspension buffer (NSB)

- 2 ml of DPBS
- 2 µl of RNasin Plus

1 Precool all instruments and buffers.

#### NOTE

All steps are performed on ice or in cold room (4°C) to minimize RNA degradation.

2 Start with kidney cubes (either fresh or snap frozen, smaller than 8 mm<sup>3</sup>) and place on a 60 mm dish.

3 Add 1 ml of NLB1, then mince very well with a fresh razor blade.

 1 ml NLB1

4 Transfer the minced tissue with NLB1 into a Dounce tissue grinder and add another 1 ml of NLB1.

 1 ml NLB1

5 Grind 20-30 times with a loose pestle, then pass the homogenate through a 200 µm strainer and collect in a 50 ml conical tube.

**NOTE**

To reduce heat caused by friction, homogenization should be performed gently on ice.

6 Transfer the homogenate again into a Dounce tissue grinder.

7 Grind the homogenate 10-15 times with a tight pestle.

8 Add 2 ml of NLB1 and incubate for 5 min on ice.

 2 ml NLB1

 00:05:00 Incubation on ice

9 Pass the homogenate through a 40 µm strainer into 50 ml conical tube.

10 Transfer the homogenate into a 15 ml conical tube.

11 Centrifuge the tube at 500 G for 5 min at 4°C.

 4 °C Centrifugation

 00:05:00 Centrifugation at 500 G

12 Discard supernatant.

13 Carefully suspend the pellet in 4 ml of NLB2.

 4 ml NLB2

14 Incubate on ice for 5 min.

 00:05:00 Incubation on ice

15 Centrifuge at 500 G for 5 min at 4°C.

**NOTE**

We use a fixed angle rotor.

**4 °C Centrifugation**

**00:05:00 Centrifugation at 500 G**

16 Discard supernatant.

17 Carefully suspend the pellet in 2 ml of NSB.

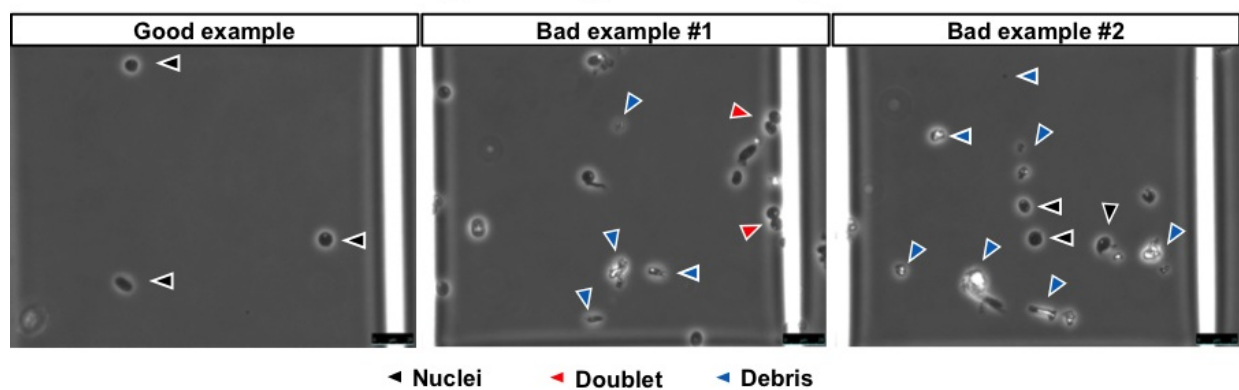
**2 ml NSB**

18 Pass the suspension through a 5 µm strainer into 50 ml conical tube.

19 Count nuclei by hemocytometer.

**EXPECTED RESULT**

**Typical images at final step**



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