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🌐 Mammalian cell culture and transfection for stable cell lines generation

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ABSTRACT

Autosomal recessive mutations in PTEN-induced kinase 1 (PINK1) are linked to early-onset Parkinson's disease (PD) [1]. Upon mitochondrial depolarization, PINK1 activates through autophosphorylation and stabilization on mitochondria [2]. Pink1 phosphorylates ubiquitin and Parkin, triggering mitophagy to remove damaged mitochondria in PD [3]. To delve deeper into the impact of PINK1 mutations, a PINK1 knockout (KO) HeLa cell line was utilized as a model system. Additionally, stable cell lines with mutated PINK1 were established to explore differences in functional activity and the formation of the PINK1-TOM complex between wild-type PINK1 and its mutant variants.

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We use this protocol and it's working

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MATERIALS


1. HeLa Flip-In T-Rex cells and plasmids:

- PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In T-Rex cells
- Doxycycline induced WT-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU43407)
- Doxycycline induced KI-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU46669)
- Doxycycline induced empty-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU45919)
- Doxycycline induced L532A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU60932)
- Doxycycline induced L539A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU60929)
- Doxycycline induced L540A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU60930)
- Doxycycline induced L532A L539A L540A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU77629)
- Doxycycline induced R83A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU76079)
- Doxycycline induced R88A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU76082)
- Doxycycline induced R98A-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU76078)
- Doxycycline induced R83E R88E R98E-PINK1-3FLAG in PINK1 KO HeLa Flip-In cells (DU77573)

2. Consumables

1.  DMEM high glucose no glutamine **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #11960044**
2. 6 mL in 500 ml media
 -  L-Glutamine (200 mM) **Gibco - Thermo Fischer Catalog #25030081**
3.  Penicillin-Streptomycin (10,000 U/mL) **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #15140122**
(GIBCO); 6 mL in 500 ml media
4. Phosphate buffered saline (Invitrogen)
 -  10x PBS **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #AM9624**
5.  Hygromycin B Gold **Invitrogen** , 0.5 ml in 500 ml media
6.  Blasticidin 7.5 mg/ml **InvivoGen** , 1 ml in 500 ml media
7.  Zeocin 100 mg/m **InvivoGen** , 1 ml in 500 ml media
8.  Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) (Sigma) **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich)** , 10% in media
9.  Opti-MEM™ I Reduced Serum Medium **Gibco - Thermo Fischer Catalog #31985062**
10. Doxycycline 1 mg/ml (Sigma-Aldrich), 0.02 ug/ml

11.

 Lipofectamine[®] 3000 Transfection Reagent **Thermo**
Fisher Catalog #L3000001

12. 25G 1" (25mm) syringe needle (Orange)

3. Buffer and reagents:

Mitochondrial fractionation buffer:

A	B
HEPES pH 7.5	20 mM
EDTA	3 mM
Sodium β -glycerophosphate	5 mM
Sodium fluoride	50 mM
Sodium pyrophosphate	5 mM
Sucrose	250 mM

Frozen stock (final conc):

A	B
Sodium orthovanadate	1 mM
protease inhibitor cocktail tablet (Roche)	1X

Added fresh before use (final conc):

Lysis buffer:


A	B
Tris-HCl (pH 7.5)	25 mM
EDTA	1 mM
EGTA	1 mM
sucrose	0.27 M
NaF	50 mM
sodiumpyrophosphate	5 mM
sodium orthovanadate	1 mM
sodium β -glycero-phosphate	10 mM
benzamidine	1 mM
2-mercapto-ethanol	0.10%

A	B
one mini Complete TM protease inhibitor cocktail tablet	per 10 ml of lysis buffer
Triton X-100	1% v/v

Equipment:

- Binder CO₂ Mammalian Incubator
- 150mm Petri dishes for culturing cells
- VWR Micro Star 21R microcentrifuge
- Esco Class II biological safety cabinet
- Grant water bath

Cell Culture

- 1 Maintain cells at  37 °C in a 5% CO₂ water-saturated incubator.



- 2 Grow HeLa cells in Dulbecco's modified eagle medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (FBS), 2mM L-glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 0.1 mg/ml streptomycin (complete media).

- 3 The cell culture passages usually used are from P10 to P20. The passages are never used above P25.


Maintenance of HeLa Flp-In T-Rex Stable Cell Lines:

- 4 For HeLa Flp-In T-Rex stable cell lines, use complete media supplemented with blasticidin and zeocin before recombination/transfection for stable cell line generation.
- 5 Supplement with blasticidin and hygromycin B following recombination/transfection.

Generation of Stable Cell Lines:



6 Achieve doxycycline-induced, stable expression of exogenous protein using the Flp-In T-Rex system according to Invitrogen's instructions, utilizing CRISPR knock-out PINK1 KO HeLa Flp-In T-Rex cells [4]. The exact steps are detailed below.

7 Maintain HeLa PINK1 knock-out Flp-In T-Rex cells in blasticidin and zeocin.

8 Wash cells with PBS wash and switch to complete media  24:00:00 before transfection.

1d





9 Carry out transfection by co-transfecting  0.5 µg integratable hygromycin-resistant pcDNA FRT/TO vector of desired PINK1/mutant with  4.5 µg pOG44 expressing the Flp recombinase using Lipofectamine3000 in 100mm Petri dish [5, 6].

A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D
Tube 1			
	POG44 plasmid	4.5 µg	
	Desired DNA plasmid	0.5 µg	Total DNA = 5µg
	Lipofectamine P3000 reagent	10 µl	
	Opti-MEM	0.5 ml	
Tube 2			
	Lipofectamine reagent	7.5 µl	

A	B	C	D
	Opti-MEM	0.5 μ l	


- 10



Mix the 2 tubes and keep at RT for  00:15:00 .

15m
- 11

Add the transfection mix drop by drop in the plate containing HeLa PINK1 knock-out Flp-In T-Rex cells. Keep a plate of untransfected cells as a negative control.
- 12


After  48:00:00 of transfection, split the cells with around 25% confluency.

2d
- 13

Once the cells are attached, add fresh complete media supplemented with blasticidin and hygromycin.
- 14




Maintain the cells with regular media changes every 2-3 days. Remove dying/dead cells when required. If successful, you will see separate colonies growing. Colonies amount varies from 10-50 per plate.
- 15






Trypsinize surviving colonies after 3-4 weeks of selection.
- 16

Expand the selected colonies, and induce protein expression with  0.02 μ M doxycycline.

Treatment with Mitochondrial Uncoupler:

6h


17 Prepare a  50 mM stock of Antimycin and  6.3 mM of Oligomycin in DMSO, and store at  -20 °C .

18 Uncouple mitochondria by treating with  10 µM of Antimycin A and  1 µM of Oligomycin for  9h
 03:00:00 -  06:00:00 , using an equivalent volume of DMSO for control conditions.

Cell Lysis and Mitochondrial Enrichment:

55m


19 Whole cell lysis

19.1 For collection keep plates with cells  On ice covered with aluminium foil to provide even cool surface.







19.2 Wash the cells with PBS and collect the cells with cell scraper.



19.3 Collect the cells by centrifugation at  800 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00 .

5m




19.4 Add around  300 µL of Lysis buffer for  100 mm cell plate lysate. Resuspend the cells with lysis buffer containing 1% triton and keep them  On ice for  00:30:00 .

30m



19.5

Clarify lysates by centrifugation at  17000 x g, 4°C, 00:20:00 .


20m



Mitochondrial Enrichment:

40m

20

For collection keep plates with cells  On ice covered with aluminium foil to provide even cool surface.




21

Wash the cells with PBS and collect the cells with cell scraper.





22

Collect the cells by centrifugation at  800 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00 .

5m




23


Pellet down the cells at  800 x g, 4°C, 00:05:00 . For 150 mm plate cell pellet add  300 µL of mitochondria fractionation buffer.

5m

24

Disrupt cell membranes using a 25-gauge needle by passing through it for 25 times  On ice .

25


Clarify lysates by centrifugation at  800 x g, 4°C, 00:10:00 .

10m



26

Discard the cytoplasmic membrane/nucleus/debris pellet.

27 Isolate supernatant and centrifuge at  17000 x g, 4°C, 00:20:00 to collect mitochondrial enriched fraction.

20m

28 Keep supernatant as the cytoplasmic fraction.

29 Snap-freeze the mitochondrial enriched pellet for Blue native PAGE or resuspend the pellet in mitochondria fractionation buffer with 1% Triton X-100 to keep as the mitochondrial-enriched fraction.