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Oct 22, 2021

P1 Kidney Cold-Active Protease Single Cell Dissociation V.3

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dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bzeap3ae[protocols.io Ambassadors](#)

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Method used to derive single cell suspension from P1 mouse kidneys on ice, generating a cell suspension with greatly reduced artifact gene expression changes and suitable for downstream analysis using 10x Chromium or DropSeq.

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bzeap3ae

Andrew Potter, Steve Potter 2021. P1 Kidney Cold-Active Protease Single Cell Dissociation. **protocols.io**

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bzeap3ae>

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protocol

[Psychrophilic proteases dramatically reduce single-cell RNA-seq artifacts: a molecular atlas of kidney development](#)

CAP, cold-active protease, bacillus licheniformis, single cell dissociation, kidney

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Storage Conditions of Reagents

A	B
Reagent	Storage Condition
DPBS (ThermoFisher, 14190144)	4°C
1 M CaCl ₂	room temp.
BSA (Sigma, A8806)	4°C
Protease from <i>Bacillus Licheniformis</i> (Sigma, P5380)	Store 100 µL aliquots (100 mg/mL) in DPBS at -80°C
DNAse 1 (StemCell, 07469)	Store 10 µL aliquots (250 U/10 µL) in DPBS at -80°C

Required Equipment

Equipment	Supplier	Catalog no.
gentleMACS dissociator	Miltenyi	130-093-235

The protocol workflow is as follows:

- A. Isolate Kidney
- B. Initial digestion: triturate on ice
- C. Perform gentleMACS
- D. Continue triturating on ice
- F. Preparing cells for Chromium/DropSeq

BEFORE STARTING

Prepare *Bacillus Licheniformis* enzyme mix just prior to starting dissociation:

A	B	C
Volume (μl)	Reagent	Final concentration
890	DPBS	1X
5	1 M CaCl ₂	5 mM
5	DNAse 1 (250 U/10 μL)	125 U / mL
100	<i>B. Lich</i> (100 mg/mL)	10 mg/mL

+25 mg tissue / 1 mL enzyme mix

To prepare 0.01% BSA/PBS:

Make stock of 10% BSA in DPBS and store at -20 °C. To make PBS/BSA 0.01% aliquot 50 mL of DPBS in 50 mL conical and pipet in 50 μL of 10% BSA stock.

Prepare 10% FBS/PBS with heat-inactivated FBS.

- 1 Extract & isolate P1 kidneys in ice-cold PBS.
- 2 Mince kidneys on top of petri dish, on ice, using razor blade.
- 3 Weigh out 25 mg of tissue for each tube of B. Lich. enzyme mix (2 tubes total).

 **25 mg**

- 4 Incubate tissue + enzyme on ice for 7 minutes while triturating 15 strokes using 1 mL pipet every 2 minutes set to 700 μ L - first with tip cut off.

🕒 00:07:00

🕒 00:02:00

- 5 After 7 minutes, take the digest mix (combine the two tubes) and pipet into Miltenyi C-tube (placed on ice); take C-tube to gentleMACS placed in 4° cold room. Run program brain_03 two times.

🧊 4 °C

- 6 After MACS, briefly quick spin the MACS tube (to 300 G) at 4 °C to ensure contents are in the bottom of the tube.

🧊 4 °C

- 7 Re-suspend and visualize cells using scope by taking small aliquot and using a slide; continue digesting cells in C-tube on ice for 8 additional minutes while triturating every 2 min 15 strokes using a 1 mL pipet.

🕒 00:08:00

🕒 00:02:00

- 8 Add 3 mL ice-cold 10% FBS/PBS to digest mix in C-tube to inhibit the protease.

📦 3 mL ice-cold 10% FBS/PBS

- 9 Transfer digest mix to a 15 mL conical. Spin 300 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C; discard supernatant^{5m}; re-suspend cell pellet in 2 mL ice-cold PBS/BSA.

🧊 4 °C

🕒 00:05:00 300 g spin

📦 2 mL re-suspend in PBS/BSA

- 10 Filter re-suspended cells using 30 μ M filter on sterile 15 mL conical on ice - rinse filter with 8 mL ice-cold PBS/BSA.

📦 8 mL rinse filter with PBS/BSA

- 11 Spin 15 mL conical tube containing filtered cells 300 G for 5 minutes at 4 °C; discard

5m

supernatant and re-suspend pellet in 10 mL ice-cold PBS/BSA.

 **4 °C**

 **00:05:00 300 g spin**

 **10 mL PBS/BSA**

12 Repeat rinse/spin in ice-cold PBS/BSA.

13 Remove supernatant and re-suspend in 1-2 mL ice-cold PBS/BSA.

14 Examine using hemocytometer and adjust concentration to 100 cells/uL for DropSeq or 1,000 cells/ μ L for 10X Chromium.