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# Immunohistochemistry of porcine enteric neurons

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1



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This protocol is to investigate the presence and localization of neurochemical markers in the submucosal and myenteric plexus of the porcine colon using immunohistochemical staining techniques.

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- samples of porcine colon
- Krebs solution for preparation containing in (mM): 117 NaCl, 11 Glucose, 4.7 KCl, 1.2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.2 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 25 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 2.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>; Carl Roth GmbH & Co. KG (Karlsruhe, Germany)
- Sylgard® 184; World Precision Instruments (Sarasota, FL, USA)
- 4% paraformaldehyde; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- 0.002% picric acid; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- 0.1 mol/l phosphate buffer; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- phosphate-buffered saline (PBS): H<sub>2</sub>O, Sodium Phosphate Monobasic, Sodium Phosphate Dibasic, NaCl; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- 0.1% NaN<sub>3</sub>; Carl Roth GmbH & Co. KG (Karlsruhe, Germany)
- 4% horse serum; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- Triton X-100; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- object slides; Gerhard Menzel B. V. & Co. KG (Braunschweig, Germany)
- glycerol; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Schnelldorf, Germany)
- cover slips; Omnilab-Laborzentrum GmbH & Co. KG (Gehrden, Germany)
- all antibodies from table 1 and table 2
- epifluorescence microscope; Olympus Corporation (Hamburg, Germany)
- Olympus cellSens Standard Software, Olympus Corporation (Hamburg, Germany)

- 1 Samples of colon were taken from apparently healthy pigs, placed in ice-cold oxygenated Krebs solution for preparation and immediately transferred to the laboratory. Tissues were then dissected in the ice-cold oxygenated Krebs solution for preparation to obtain whole-mount inner submucosal plexus or myenteric plexus preparations.
- 2 Tissue specimens were fixed overnight in a solution containing 4% paraformaldehyde and 0.002% picric acid in 0.1 mol/l phosphate buffer and then washed (3 x 10 min) in PBS.
- 3 The preparations were then incubated in PBS/NaN<sub>3</sub>/horse serum for 1h at room temperature followed by 12h and 2h incubation with the primary and secondary antibodies, respectively.
- 4 Specimens were washed in PBS, mounted on object slides and cover slipped with a solution of PBS (pH 7.0)/NaN<sub>3</sub> containing 65% glycerol.
- 5 The preparations were examined with an epifluorescence microscope equipped with appropriate filter blocks. Pictures were acquired with a camera connected to a computer and controlled by Olympus cellSens Standard Software.
- 6 Pictures of the stained ganglia were acquired.