

# Duke - Isolation, Culture, and Maintenance of Patient-Derived Tumor Biopsy V.2

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1 Works for me dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bijikcke

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## ABSTRACT

This protocol is split into 3 sections: collecting tumor cells, passaging, and cryopreserving organoids.

### Phase 1:

**Aim:** Collect viable cells from biopsy samples

**Tumor organoid:** Colorectal Cancer

**Source:** Human primary tissue

### Phase 2:

**Aim:** Passage and expand organoid samples

### Phase 3:

**Aim:** Organoid cryopreservation

**Tumor organoid:** Colorectal Cancer

**Source:** Human primary tissue

## DOI

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## MATERIALS

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
PBS		
HEPES	BP310-500	Fisher Scientific

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
FBS		Invitrogen - Thermo Fisher
MACS 15 mL Tube Rack	130-091-052	Miltenyi Biotec
Collagenase	C5138	Sigma
Cell strainer 70um filter	352350	Falcon
HBSS	14060040	Gibco - Thermo Fischer
B-27&trade; Supplement (50X), minus antioxidants	10889038	Thermo Fisher
Externally and Internally Threaded Cryogenic Storage Vials	12567501	Thermo Fisher
Advanced DMEM/F-12	12634010	Thermo Fisher
Recovery&trade; Cell Culture Freezing Medium	12648010	Thermo Fisher
Antibiotic-Antimycotic (100X)	15240062	Thermo Fisher
L-Glutamine	21051040	Thermo Fisher
Cryogenic Box Divider, vertical, 2mL with 100-cells	4000014	Thermo Fisher
N-Acetyl-L-cysteine	A9165	Sigma Aldrich
Corning® Matrigel® Growth Factor Reduced (GFR) Basement Membrane Matrix	356231	Corning
Rock Inhibitor Y-27632 Dihydrochloride	1254	Tocris
N2 supplement (100x supplement)	17502048	Gibco, ThermoFisher

#### MATERIALS TEXT

Razor blades (brand new)

Ice

Petri Dish (100X15 mm)

15 ml tube

Ethanol 70%

Tweezers

Ice

Ethanol 70%

Biosafety cabinet

Basal media (L-glutamine, HEPES, B27, N2, AA, NACE)

Basal media (L-glutamine, HEPES, B27, N2, AA, NACE) human (1mM), A-83-01 (500 uM), Rock inhibitor Y-27631 (10 mM), SB 202190 (30 mM))

Basal media						
Supplements	Vendor	Catalog #	Solvent	Stock Solution	Working concentration	Store
Advantage DMEMF-12	ThermoFisher	12634-010	NA	NA	NA	4 °C. Protect from light
L-Glutamine 200 mM (100X)	ThermoFisher	25030-081	NA	200mM	2 mM	(-20°C. Protect from light
HEPES (1M)	ThermoFisher	15630060	NA	1 M	10 mM	4 °C
B-27™ Supplement (50X), minus vitamin A	ThermoFisher	12587010	NA	50X	1X	(-20°C. Protect from light
N-2 Supplement (100X)	ThermoFisher	17502048	NA	100X	1X	(-20°C. Protect from light
Antibiotic-Antimycotic or Anti-Anti (100X)	ThermoFisher	15240-062	NA	10000/10000/25 U/ml	100 U/ml	(-20°C
NACE (N-Acetyl-L-cysteine)	Sigma-Aldrich	A9165-5G	Sterile Water	500mM	1mM	4 °C

\* Basal media must store at 4°C afterward all supplements are added

#### Basal Media Formulation

Basal media + small molecules						
Small molecules	Vendor	Catalog #	Solvent	Stock Solution	Working concentration	Store
Basal media (500ml)			NA	NA	NA	4 °C
[Leu]51-Glutatin Human	Sigma-Aldrich	G9145-1MG	Sterile Water	100 uM	10 uM	(-20°C
A-83-01	Sigma-Aldrich	SML0788-5MG	DMSO	500 uM	500 nM	(-20°C
SB202190	Sigma-Aldrich	S7067-5MG	DMSO	30 mM	10 uM	4 °C
Y-27632	STEMCELL TECHNOLOGIES	72284	PBS	10 mM	10 uM	(-20°C

\* Basal media + small molecules can be frozen afterward all growth factors are added

#### Formulation of Basal Media + Small Molecules

Small molecules-Preparation						
Growth Factor	Vendor	Final Concentration in Media	Stock Solution	Solvent	Amount of solvent	Store
[Leu]51-Glutatin Human	Sigma-Aldrich	10 nM	1 mM	Sterile Water	48.07 uL	(-20°C
A-83-01	Sigma-Aldrich	500 uM	500 uM	DMSO	474.47 uL	(-20°C
SB202190	Sigma-Aldrich	10 uM	30 mM	DMSO	50 uL	(-20°C
Y-27632	STEMCELL TECHNOLOGIES	10 uM	10 mM	PBS	1500 uL	(-20°C

#### Small Molecule Preparation

Transport media						
Materials	Vendor	Catalog #	Solvent	Stock Solution	Working concentration	Store
Advantage DMEMF-12	Thermo Fisher	12634-010	NA	NA	NA	4 °C. Protect from light
Penicillin Streptomycin	Thermo Fisher	15140-122	NA	10000/10000 U/ml	100 U/ml	(-20°C
Rock inhibitor Y-27632	Stemcell Technologies	72304	PBS	10 nM	10 uM	(-20°C
* Transport media must keep on ice or 4°C afterward all materials are added						

## Transport Media Formulation


Cell digestion solution						
Materials	Vendor	Catalog #	Solvent	Stock Solution	Working concentration	Store
Liberase™ TH Research Grade	Sigma-Aldrich	5401135001	HBSS buffer	2.5 mg/ml	50 ug/ml	(-20°C
Hank's Balanced Salt Solution	ThermoFisher	24020117	NA	NA	NA	Room temperature

## Cell Digestion Solution

### EQUIPMENT

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
MACSmix™ Tube Rotator	130-090-753	


### Disassociation of Tumor Cells

- 1 Store tissue samples in cold transport media (  **10 mL** ). **Keep samples on ice at all time and process within**  
🕒 **00:45:00**


- 2 Transfer the tumor biopsy sample (1-2 cm<sup>3</sup>) and transport media into a petri dish and remove remnant non-tumor tissue with sterile tweezers.



The size of the tissue sample will affect the cells yield and the end of the protocol. Make sure to get enough tissue sample (~ 1-2cm<sup>3</sup>)

- 3 Transfer the tumor tissue to a new petri dish and cut the sample into small pieces with a sterile razor blade (<2 mm<sup>2</sup>).
- 4 Add  **5 mL** of cold sterile PBS to the dish and transfer the tumor fragments and PBS to a 15 ml centrifuge tube, pipetting up and down for three times.

- 5 Allow the tissue fragments to settle by gravity for 🕒 **00:01:00** ⚠ **On ice** , remove and discard the supernatant

- 6 Resuspend the tissue fragments in  **5 mL** HBSS buffer plus Collagenase and transfer to a fresh 15 ml tube.

- 7 Place the tube in



MACSmix™ Tube Rotator  
Miltenyi Biotec 130-090-753 [🔗](#)

and incubate the enzymatic digestion at **37 °C** for **01:30:00**.



The time of cell digestion will affect the cells yield and the end of the protocol. Make sure to incubate for enough time

- 8 Quench the enzymatic digestion by adding **1 mL** of cold, sterile FBS to the reaction and proceed immediately to plating for organoid culture.

#### Plating Cancer Cells for 3D Organoid Culture

- 9 Warm up a 24-well flat bottom plate in the incubator and cool the 10% FBS solution on ice.
- 10 Strain the quenched enzyme solution through a 70 um cell strainer into a 15 ml tube using a reducing adaptors assembly. Use one cell strainer, reducing adaptor and tube per sample.
- 11 Wash the cells twice in **5 mL** of 10% FBS by pipet up and down at least 10 times then centrifuging the sample for 3 minutes at 2000g to pellet the cells.
- 12 Resuspend the cell pellet in 1 ml basal media and determine the cellular yield using a hemocytometer.

For instructions on using hemocytometer:

[Hemocytometer Protocol.docx](#)



- 13 Transfer the desired cell sample to a fresh tube and **2000 x g, Room temperature 00:07:00** to pellet the cells. Discard the supernatant. Do not remove the pellet.









The following steps are for plating 4 x **50 µl** culture domes. If fewer or additional culture domes are required based on the counts in step 5, adjust the volume of Matrigel and PBS.

- 14 Thoroughly resuspend the cells in **40 µl** of cold PBS by pipetting up and down 10 times. Avoid introducing bubbles.
- 15 Add **160 µl** of Matrigel to the cell solution and mix by pipetting up and down 10 times. Avoid introducing bubbles.




 Keep the Matrigel  **On ice** all the time, at room temperature will start to polymerization



- 16 Gently plate  **50 µl** domes of the Matrigel-cell suspension in the center of the 4 central wells in the pre-warm 24 well flat bottom plate.
- 17 Carefully transfer the plate to  **37 °C** incubator and incubate for at least  **00:30:00** to allow domes to solidify (polymerize).
- 18 Gently add  **1 mL** of basal media + small molecules to each well by pipetting the media gently down the wall of the well.
- 19   
**Optional:** Add sterile PBS to the unused wells of the 24 well plate to limit evaporation.
- 20 Place the lid on the culture plate and return it to the tissue culture incubator.
- 21 Perform a full media change every  **48:00:00** to expand organoids. Observe cancer organoids daily and replace the media every 2 days after cancer cell isolation. Proceed to the next phases (drug screening, passage organoids and cryopreservation) after 4 or 5 days.

#### Passaging Cancer Organoids

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 Passage must be performed between 7 or 10 days depending on organoid size and density, passaging helps to avoid the organoid overgrowth and keeps the culture healthy and expanding.

Carefully remove media from each well.

- 23 Gently add  **1 mL** cold PBS to each well by pipetting the PBS gently down the wall of the well.
- 24 Carefully remove and discard PBS from each well.
- 25 Add  **1 mL** of accutax on the top of the dome in each well and perform mechanical detach from the bottom (gently scrape).

- 26 Carefully transfer the plate to 37°C incubator. Incubate at **37 °C** for **00:10:00**
- 27 Collect and transfer the accumax-cell suspension to a 15 ml tube.
- 28 Add **2000 µl** of FBS to get 10% FBS and pipette up and down the accumax-cell suspension at least 10 times.
- 29 Centrifuge the sample for **200 x g, Room temperature 00:05:00** to pellet the cells. Do not remove the pellet.
- 30 Remove the 24 well flat bottom plate from the **37 °C** incubator.
- 31 Add **40 µl** of PBS to the sample tube. Pipette up and down 10 times to thoroughly resuspend the pellet. Avoid introducing bubbles.
- 32 Add **160 µl** of Matrigel to the sample tube. Pipette up and down 10 times to thoroughly resuspend the pellet. Avoid introducing bubbles.
- 33 Gently add **50 µl** of Matrigel-cell suspension in 4 central wells of a pre-warm 24 well plate. This protocol uses a 1:2 split ratio on passage organoid between 7 to 10 days after plating, or when the density reaches 150 organoids per well.
- 34 Carefully transfer the plate to 37°C incubator. Incubate at **37 °C** for at least **00:30:00** to allow domes to solidify (polymerization).
- 35 Gently add **1 mL** of conditioned media to each well by pipetting the media gently down the wall of the well.
- 36 Place the lid on the culture plate and incubate at **37 °C** and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 37 Every 2 days perform a full media change.

- 38 Carefully remove media from each well and add 1 ml of recovery cell culture freezing medium per well.
- 39 Scrape the Matrigel off the bottom of the wells with a 1,000 µl pipette and transfer the cancer organoids into a one cryovial. Label with date and tissue source or any other specifications.
- 40 Place each tube in a freezing container and incubate the tubes at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for at least 1 day.
- 41 Transfer the frozen cryovials to a liquid nitrogen storage tank. Cancer organoids can be kept in liquid nitrogen storage for at least 3 years.

#### Recovery of Frozen Organoids

- 42 Remove the cryovials from storage and thaw them quickly in a  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  water bath.
- 43 Collect the organoids with a 1,000 µl pipette into a 15-ml centrifuge tube.
- 44 Add **10 mL** of basal media and spin the organoids down at **200 x g, 4°C 00:05:00**
- 45 Remove and discard the supernatant and suspend the organoids with Matrigel.
- 46 The appropriate volume of Matrigel depends on the number of the cancer organoids. In most cases splitting one vial (1000 µl) of preserved organoids to 4-6 wells of a 24 well flat bottom plate is enough.
- 47 Gently add **50 µl** of Matrigel-cell suspension in 4 central wells of a pre-warm 24 well plate.
- 48 Carefully transfer the plate to 37°C incubator. Incubate at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for at least **00:30:00** to allow domes to solidify (polymerization).
- 49 Gently add **1 mL** of conditioned media to each well by pipetting the media gently down the wall of the well.
- 50 Place the lid on the culture plate and incubate at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

51 Every 2 days perform a full media change.