

StemXVivo™

Ectoderm Kit

Catalog Number SC031B

Reagents for the differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells into ectoderm.

This package insert must be read in its entirety before using this product.
For laboratory research use only. Not for diagnostic use.
The safety and efficacy of this product in diagnostic or
other clinical uses has not been established.

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MANUFACTURED AND DISTRIBUTED BY:

USA & Canada | R&D Systems, Inc.

614 McKinley Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413, USA
TEL: (800) 343-7475 (612) 379-2956 FAX: (612) 656-4400
E-MAIL: info@RnDSystems.com

DISTRIBUTED BY:

UK & Europe | R&D Systems Europe, Ltd.

19 Barton Lane, Abingdon Science Park, Abingdon OX14 3NB, UK
TEL: +44 (0)1235 529449 FAX: +44 (0)1235 533420
E-MAIL: info@RnDSystems.co.uk

China | R&D Systems China Co., Ltd.

24A1 Hua Min Empire Plaza, 726 West Yan An Road, Shanghai PRC 200050
TEL: +86 (21) 52380373 FAX: +86 (21) 52371001
E-MAIL: info@RnDSystemsChina.com.cn

INTRODUCTION

Pluripotent stem cells, including both embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells, provide much promise for the generation of sufficient quantities of specialized cells for use in regenerative medicine. Additionally, these cells are an important tool for understanding developmental and disease mechanisms.

Ectoderm is one of the three primary germ layers formed during the process of gastrulation in the early embryo. Embryonic ectoderm gives rise to the nervous system and epidermal tissues. The ability of pluripotent stem cells to differentiate into ectoderm is one of the defining characteristics of these cells. Differentiation into ectoderm is also an essential first step for the formation of important downstream derivative cell types for use in regenerative medicine, such as neurons and keratinocytes (1-3).

PRINCIPLE OF THE ASSAY

The StemXVivo™ Ectoderm Kit contains specially formulated media supplements and growth factors for the differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells into ectoderm. An antibody against Otx2 is also included to verify differentiation status. The quantity of each component is sufficient to make 150 mL of media for differentiation, which is enough media for the differentiation of six 60 mm plates or two 24-well plates.

LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

- FOR LABORATORY RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT FOR DIAGNOSTIC USE.
- Do not mix or substitute reagents with those from other lots or sources.
- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date.
- The safety and efficacy of this product in diagnostic or other clinical uses has not been established.
- The quality of the pluripotent stem cells and any variation in this procedure can cause variation in the efficiency of ectoderm differentiation.

PRECAUTION

The acute and chronic effects of overexposure to reagents of this kit are unknown. Safe laboratory procedures should be followed and protective clothing should be worn when handling kit reagents.

MATERIALS PROVIDED & STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store unopened kit at ≤ -20 °C in a manual defrost freezer. Do not use past kit expiration date.

PART	PART #	DESCRIPTION	STORAGE OF RECONSTITUTED MATERIAL
Ectoderm Base Media Supplement (50X)	896203	3 mL of a concentrated solution.	Store at 2-8 °C for up to 2 weeks or aliquot and store at ≤ -20 °C in a manual defrost freezer for up to 3 months.* Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
Ectoderm Differentiation Supplement	390516	2 vials of lyophilized growth factors for ectoderm differentiation; enough to make 300 μ L of a 500X stock.	Store under sterile conditions at 2-8 °C for up to 1 month or aliquot and store at ≤ -20 °C in a manual defrost freezer for up to 3 months.* Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.
Anti-Human Otx2	967331	25 μ g of lyophilized goat anti-human Otx2 polyclonal antibody; enough to make 2.5 mL of staining solution when used at the suggested concentration of 1 μ g/100 μ L	Store at 2-8 °C for up to 1 month or aliquot and store at ≤ -20 °C in a manual defrost freezer for up to 6 months.* Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

*Provided this is within the expiration of the kit.

OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Materials

- Human pluripotent stem cells
- 24-well culture plates
- 60 mm culture plates
- 12 mm cover slips
- 15 mL and 50 mL centrifuge tubes
- 0.2 µm syringe filter
- 10 mL syringe
- Pipettes and pipette tips
- Serological pipettes
- Glass slides
- Fine pointed curved forceps

Reagents

- RPMI
- BSA, very low endotoxin
- D-MEM/F-12
- GlutaMAX™ (Invitrogen, Catalog # 35050-079 or equivalent)
- Penicillin-Streptomycin (optional)
- Sterile Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS)
- Cultrex® PathClear® Reduced Growth Factor Basement Membrane Extract (R&D Systems, Catalog # 3433-005-01)
- Recombinant Human FGF basic (Tissue culture grade; R&D Systems, Catalog # 4114-TC)
- MEF Conditioned Media (R&D Systems, Catalog # AR005)
- Trypan Blue solution
- Accutase®
- 95% Ethanol
- 4% Paraformaldehyde in PBS
- 1% BSA in PBS
- 0.3% Triton™ X-100, 1% BSA, 10% normal donkey serum in PBS
- Mounting medium (R&D Systems, Catalog # CTS011)
- Secondary developing reagents (R&D Systems, Catalog # NL001, NL002, or NL003)
- Deionized or distilled water

Equipment

- 37 °C and 5% CO₂ incubator
- 37 °C water bath
- Centrifuge
- Hemocytometer
- Inverted microscope
- Fluorescence microscope

REAGENT & MATERIAL PREPARATION

0.1% BSA in PBS - Dissolve 10 mg of BSA in 10 mL of PBS. Sterile filter the solution by syringe filter, and store at 2-8 °C for up to 3 months.

Ectoderm Differentiation Supplement - Reconstitute each vial with 150 µL of sterile 0.1% BSA in PBS. Mix gently.

Ectoderm Base Media - Combine 3 mL of 50X Ectoderm Base Media Supplement with 147 mL of RPMI, 1.5 mL of Penicillin/Streptomycin (optional), and 1.5 mL of GlutaMAX.

Ectoderm Differentiation Media - Dilute Ectoderm Differentiation Supplement stock solution 500-fold in pre-warmed Ectoderm Base Media. Prepare fresh as needed.

Anti-Human Otx2 - Reconstitute with 250 µL of sterile PBS. Mix gently.

PROCEDURE OUTLINE

Coat wells with Cultrex® Basement Membrane Extract (BME).

Incubate at room temperature for 1-2 hours.

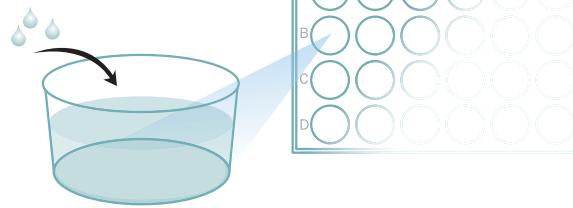
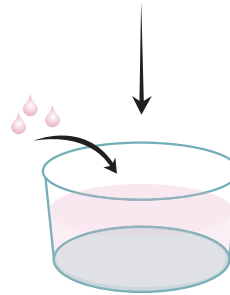
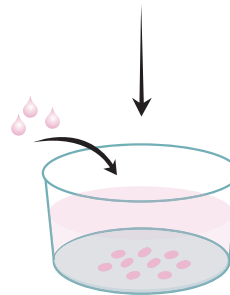


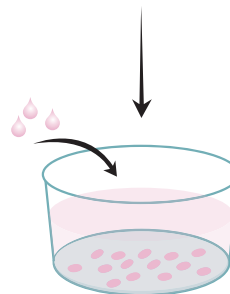
Plate BG01V human embryonic stem cells onto the coated plates at 1.1×10^5 cells/cm² in MEF Conditioned Media containing FGF basic.



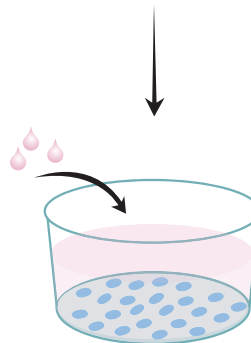
Culture cells overnight at 37 °C and 5% CO₂. The next day each well should be approximately 50% confluent.



Day 1 of Differentiation
Replace the MEF Conditioned Media with Ectoderm Differentiation media.
Incubate at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ for 12-24 hours.



Days 2 to 3 of Differentiation
Repeat media change.
On day 4, the cells are ready for **further differentiation** to downstream cell types or analysis by immunocytochemistry and/or flow cytometry.



UNDIFFERENTIATED CELL PREPARATION

This protocol is designed for use with BG01V human embryonic stem cells grown in MEF Conditioned Media. If using different cell lines or growth media, the protocol below may need to be modified.

The quality of the human pluripotent cells used in the differentiation is critical. Use of suboptimal quality or very high passage pluripotent cells can result in decreased differentiation efficiency and/or increased cell death.

COATING PLATES WITH CULTREX BASEMENT MEMBRANE EXTRACT (BME)

1. Thaw Cultrex® PathClear® Reduced Growth Factor Basement Membrane Extract (RGF BME) on ice at 2-8 °C overnight.
2. Aliquot the thawed RGF BME into pre-cooled tubes and store at ≤ -20 °C.
3. Thaw the aliquot on ice at 2-8 °C overnight.
4. Dilute the RGF BME 1:40 in D-MEM/F-12. This can be stored at 2-8 °C for up to 2 weeks.
5. Coat the desired number of plates with diluted RGF BME (approximately 2.5 mL per 60 mm plate and 0.5 mL per well of a 24-well plate) and incubate for 1-2 hours. If desired, sterile coverslips (sterilize with 95% ethanol and flame) can be added to each 24-well plate for staining purposes.
6. Remove the RGF BME solution immediately prior to plating the cells.

CELL DISSOCIATION

1. Warm the MEF Conditioned Media to 37 °C.
2. Remove the existing media from the cells. Add 1 mL of Accutase solution to each 60 mm plate or 3 mL to each 100 mm plate. Incubate at room temperature for 2-5 minutes or until the cells begin to slough off the plate. If using cells from several plates, work in small batches (1-2 plates at a time) so the cells are not exposed to the Accutase beyond the time it takes the cells to slough off the plate.
3. Pipette gently over the plate until the cells become detached.
4. Gently pipette the cell suspension up and down to break up large cell clumps.
5. Remove the cell suspension to a 15 mL centrifuge tube containing 5 mL of MEF Conditioned Media (or 12 mL if using a 100 mm plate) and spin at 200 x g for 4 minutes.

CELL PLATING

1. Resuspend the pellet in MEF Conditioned Media containing 4 ng/mL of FGF basic and count the viable cells using Trypan Blue and a hemocytometer.
2. Plate cells onto prepared RGF BME-coated plates at a concentration of 1.1×10^5 cells/cm². For example, plate 4.5×10^6 cells divided among all wells of a 24-well plate. If your cells routinely grow slowly, the initial plating density can be increased.
3. Culture cells overnight at 37 °C and 5% CO₂. The next day each plate should be approximately 50% confluent. If cells are not 50% confluent, replace the media with fresh media and culture until they reach 50% confluency.
4. Proceed to differentiation.

ECTODERM DIFFERENTIATION PROCEDURE

1. Warm the Ectoderm Base Media to 37 °C.
2. Prepare the required amount of Ectoderm Differentiation Media. Use 5 mL per 60 mm plate, or 1 mL of media per well of a 24-well plate.
3. Remove the MEF Conditioned Media from each plate or well.
4. Add the prepared Ectoderm Differentiation Media to each plate and incubate overnight at 37 °C and 5% CO₂.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 on days 2 and 3.
6. On Day 4, cells are ready for further differentiation to downstream cell types or analysis by immunocytochemistry and/or flow cytometry. For immunocytochemistry, proceed to the Fixing and Staining Procedure.

FIXING & STAINING PROCEDURE

1. Wash the cells twice with PBS (1 mL/well of a 24-well plate).
2. Fix the cells with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20 minutes at room temperature.
3. Wash the cells 3 times with 1% BSA in PBS for 5 minutes (0.5 mL/well of a 24-well plate).
4. Permeabilize and block the cells with 0.3% Triton X-100, 1% BSA, and 10% normal donkey serum in PBS at room temperature for 45 minutes (0.5 mL/well of a 24-well plate).
5. During the blocking, dilute the Anti-Human Otx2 Primary Antibody in PBS containing 0.3% Triton X-100, 1% BSA, and 10% normal donkey serum to a final concentration of 10 µg/mL.

Note: A negative control should be performed using PBS containing 0.3% Triton X-100, 1% BSA, and 10% normal donkey serum in the absence of a primary antibody.

6. After blocking, incubate the cells with diluted Anti-Human Otx2 Primary Antibody (300 µL/well of a 24-well plate) for 3 hours at room temperature or overnight at 2-8 °C.
7. Wash the cells 3 times with 1% BSA in PBS for 5 minutes (0.5 mL/well of a 24-well plate).
8. Dilute the secondary antibody [e.g. NorthernLights™ (NL)557-conjugated Donkey Anti-Goat Secondary Antibody (R&D Systems, Catalog # NL001)] at 1:200 in PBS containing 1% BSA.
9. Incubate the cells with diluted secondary antibody in the dark for 60 minutes at room temperature (300 µL/well of a 24-well plate).
10. Wash the cells 3 times with 1% BSA in PBS for 5 minutes (0.5 mL/well of a 24-well plate).
11. Cover the cells with PBS (1 mL/well of a 24-well plate) and visualize with a fluorescence microscope. Alternatively, aspirate the PBS and add distilled or deionized water (0.5 mL/well of a 24-well plate). Carefully remove each coverslip with forceps and mount cell-side down onto a drop of mounting medium on a glass slide.
12. Slides are ready for microscopic observation.

DATA EXAMPLES

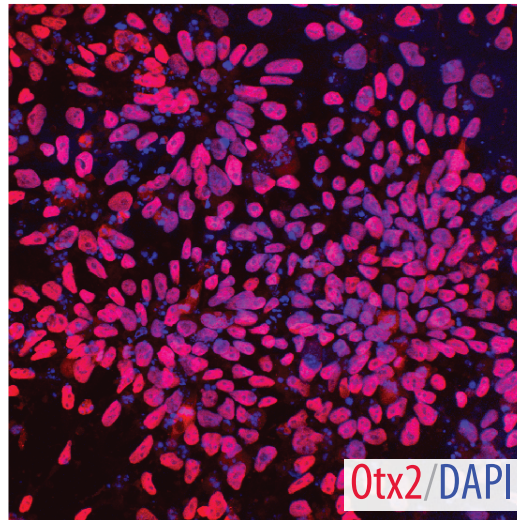


Figure 1: Differentiation of Pluripotent Stem Cells into Ectoderm. BG01V human embryonic stem cells were differentiated into ectoderm using the media supplements included in this kit. To evaluate lineage commitment, the cells were stained with the Anti-Human Otx2 antibody included. The cells were stained using NorthernLights™ (NL)557-conjugated Donkey anti-Goat IgG secondary antibody (R&D Systems, Catalog # NL001; red), and the nuclei were counterstained with DAPI (blue).

REFERENCES

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2. Peng, J. and X. Zeng (2011) *Stem Cell Res. Ther.* **2**: 32.
3. Kiskinis, E. and K. Eggan (2010) *J. Clin. Invest.* **120**: 51.

NOTES

*BG01V cells are licensed from Viacyste, Inc.
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