
**Separation of Mononuclear Cells from Peripheral Blood
using SPHERO™ Goat anti-Mouse IgG Magnetic Particles**

MATERIALS:

1. Gt anti-Ms IgG Magnetic Particles, 1% w/v, Cat. # MM-40-10 or MMXA-40-10, $\sim 2 \times 10^8$ particles/mL
2. Appropriate monoclonal antibody (anti-CD3, CD4 or CD8 etc.)
3. Appropriate FITC conjugates
4. Dulbecco PBS
5. Fetal bovine serum
6. Histopaque
7. Paraformaldehyde fixative
8. FlexiMag Separator, Jr., Cat. # FMJ-1000

PROCEDURES:

SEPARATION OF MONONUCLEAR CELLS FROM PERIPHERAL BLOOD

Collect peripheral blood by venipuncture of the antecubital vein. Draw blood into heparin Vacutainer tubes, transfer to 50 mL polypropylene centrifuge tubes and dilute with an equal volume of calcium and magnesium-free Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline.

Layer 10 to 20 mL aliquotes of diluted blood onto an equal volume of Histopaque in 50 mL tubes. Centrifuge for 30 minutes at ambient temperature using a centrifugation force of 400g at the blood/Histopaque interface. Aspirate the lymphocyte band into a 15 mL centrifuge tube and bring the volume to 14 mL with Dulbecco PBS containing 2% v/v heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, or 5% plasma protein fraction. Pellet the cells by centrifugation at 4°C for 7 minutes at 450g, wash with 14 mL of PBS, and recentrifuge. Resuspend the final cell pellet in 1-2 mL buffer, and a viable cell count performed. Only cell preparations with a viability of >95% should be used.

COATING OF ANTI-MOUSE IgG MAGNETIC PARTICLES WITH MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY

Add 2 to 5 μ g of monoclonal antibody to 100 μ L of 1% w/v Gt anti-Mouse IgG coated magnetic particles ($\sim 2 \times 10^7$ particles) in 12x75 tubes. Incubate the mixture with occasional mixing, at 4°C for at least 30 minutes. Wash the particles three times with 2 mL of Dulbecco PBS.

INCUBATION OF MAGNETIC PARTICLES AND CELLS

Pipet $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ cells into 12x75 mm glass test tubes and add monoclonal antibody coated magnetic particles to the tubes at the particle to cell ratio of 5~20 to 1. Incubate the tubes for at least 30 minutes at 4°C on the rotator at a speed setting of 2 to 4 rpm. Separate the magnetic particles with the FlexiMag Separator Jr.. Transfer the supernatant liquid, containing the unbound cells, to a 12x75 mm tube and count the cells in a hemacytometer, and/or analyze by immunofluorescence.

DETECTION OF CELL DEPLETION BY IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE

Determine the proportion of target cells in the mononuclear cell suspension pre- and post-separation by immunofluorescence staining and examine visually or by flow cytometry.

Incubate the remaining cells (unbound cells) after immunomagnetic separation with 40 μ L of anti-target cell monoclonal antibody for at least 30 minutes at 4°C with occasional mixing. Wash the cells three times with 2 mL of the buffer. Resuspend the cell pellet with 50 μ L of a 1/10 dilution of FITC-conjugated anti-Mouse IgG antibody in PBS/FBS buffer. Incubate and wash the cells as described previously. Resuspend the final cell pellet in 300 μ L of paraformaldehyde fixative and store at 4°C in the dark until analyzed on the flow cytometer or fluorescence microscope.

Perform the visual detection using a fluorescence microscope. Examine the cells under normal illumination and count the number of cells. Re-examine the same field under epi-illumination, and count the number of fluorescent cells. Categorize at least 200 cells in each preparation.

For flow cytometer evaluation, calibrate the flow cytometer and establish the lymphocyte gate based on the forward/side scatter profiles, or by back-gating according to the manufacturer's directions. Classify at least ten thousand cells from each tube and analyze the data using appropriate software.

Controls should consist of mononuclear cells incubated with (i) monoclonal antibodies to obtain pre-depletion target cell percentages; (ii) particles coated with the isotype control monoclonal to determine non-specific depletion of the target cells by the particles; (iii) each of the post-depletion analysis reagents independently to evaluate background binding of these reagents; (iv) the Leucogate reagent for cytometric analysis to determine the purity of the mononuclear cell preparation and the accuracy of the gating procedure.

Calculate the percent depletion as:

$$\% \text{ Target cells post-depletion} / \% \text{ Target cells pre-depletion} \times 100$$

NOTE: For cell separation using 1~2 μ m magnetic particles at 0.25% w/v, such as MMXA-10-10 or MMX-10-10, use the same volume as in MMXA-40-10 or MM-40-10 at 1% w/v.