



Human Cortical Neurons (HCN)

Catalog Number: 1550

Cell Specification

The tissue of the central nervous system is made up of two classes of cells that may be broadly categorized as neurons and glia. Neurons are anatomic, functional, and trophic units of the brain [1]. Despite great variability in size and shape, all neurons share common morphological features, which are those of the key elements of a highly complex communication network. The neurons are the dynamically polarized cells that serve as the major signaling unit of the nervous system. The human brain is known to contain about 1×10^{11} neurons, each being able to contact at least 10,000 other neurons [2].

HCN from ScienCell Research Laboratories are isolated from cortex of the brain. HCN are cryopreserved at primary cultures and delivered frozen. Each vial contains $>1 \times 10^6$ cells in 1 ml volume. HCN are characterized by immunofluorescent method with antibodies to neurofilament, MAP2, and beta-tubulin III. HCN are negative for HIV-1, HBV, HCV, mycoplasma, bacteria, yeast and fungi. HCN are guaranteed to further culture in the conditions provided by ScienCell Research Laboratories.

Recommended Medium

It is recommended to use neuronal medium (NM, Cat. No. 1521) for the culture of human neurons *in vitro*.

Product Use

HCN are for research use only. They are not approved for human or animal use, or for application in *in vitro* diagnostic procedures.

Storage

Transfer cells directly and immediately from dry ice to liquid nitrogen upon receiving and keep the cells in liquid nitrogen until cell culture is needed for experiments.

Shipping

Dry ice.

Reference

- [1] Parent, A. (1996) Neurons in Carpenter's Human Neuroanatomy. 9th ed., pp131-198, Williams & Wilkins, Quebec, Canada.
- [2] Alberts, B., Bray, D., Lewis, J., Raff, M., Roberts, M., Watson, J. D. (1989) Molecular biology of the cell. 2nd. ed., New York: Garland.

Instruction for culturing cells

Caution: Cryopreserved cells are very delicate. Thaw the vial in a 37°C waterbath and return them to culture as quickly as possible with minimal handling!

Set up culture after receiving the order:

1. Coat culture vessel with 0.2% Gelatin (ScienCell Product # 0423)

Note: It is important that these cells are plated in Gelatin coated culture vessels that promote cell attachment (Gelatin coating: coat flask or plate with 0.2% Gelatin at suggested volumes for one hour and wash the flask or plate with sterile water three times).

1. Prepare complete medium: decontaminate the external surfaces of medium and medium supplements with 70% ethanol and transfer them to sterile field. Aseptically open each supplement tube and add them to the basal medium with a pipette. Rinse each tube with medium to recover the entire volume.
2. Add 7 ml of complete medium to the flask. Leave the flask in the hood and go to thaw the cells.
3. Place the vial in a 37°C waterbath, hold and rotate the vial gently until the contents are completely thawed. Remove the vial from the waterbath immediately, wipe it dry, rinse the vial with 70% ethanol and transfer it to a sterile field. Remove the cap, being careful not to touch the interior threads with fingers. Using 1 ml eppendorf pipette gently re-suspend the contents of the vial.
4. Dispense the contents of the vial into the equilibrated, gelatin coated culture vessels. A seeding density of $\geq 10,000$ cells/cm² is recommended.
Note: Dilution and centrifugation of cells after thawing are not recommended since these actions are more harmful to the cells than the effect of DMSO residue in the culture. It is also important that cells are plated in gelatin coated culture vessels that promote cell attachment.
5. Replace the cap or cover, and gently rock the vessel to distribute the cells evenly. Loosen cap if necessary to permit gas exchange.
6. Return the culture vessels to the incubator.
7. For best result, do not disturb the culture for at least 16 hours after the culture has been initiated. Change the growth medium the next day to remove the residual DMSO and unattached cells, then every other day thereafter.

Maintenance of Culture:

1. Change the medium to fresh supplemented medium the next morning after establishing a culture from cryopreserved cells.
2. Change the medium every two to three days thereafter.

It is not recommended that neurons be subcultured beyond their initial plating.

Caution: Handling human derived products is potentially biohazardous. Although each cell strain tests negative for HIV, HBV and HCV DNA, diagnostic tests are not necessarily 100% accurate, therefore, proper precautions must be taken to avoid inadvertent exposure. Always wear gloves and safety glasses when working these materials. Never mouth pipette. We recommend following the universal procedures for handling products of human origin as the minimum precaution against contamination [1].

[1]. Grizzle, W. E., and Polt, S. S. (1988) Guidelines to avoid personal contamination by infective agents in research laboratories that use human tissues. J Tissue Culture Methods. 11(4).