



TransfeX™ Transfection of Plasmid DNA into Neural Progenitor Cells (NPCs)

ATCC has achieved transfection efficiencies of 90-99% in neural progenitor cells (NPCs) with a minimal cytotoxicity using the protocol described below.

General Considerations for using the TransfeX transfection reagent:

- All steps should be performed in a biosafety cabinet using proper aseptic technique and personal protective equipment.
- **Cell conditions.** Cells should be passaged at least once after thaw and the use of low-passage cells is recommended. Passage the cells 18-24 hours before transfection to ensure the cells are actively dividing and that they will be at the appropriate cell density at the time of transfection. Make sure that the cells are healthy and are $\geq 90\%$ viable, prior to transfection.
- **Seeding density.** Cell density should be 70-90% confluent on the day of transfection. See specified seeding density in the individual protocols and in Table 1. *Note: Determine the optimal cell density for each cell type in order to maximize transfection efficiency.*
- **DNA purity.** Use highly purified plasmid preps that are free from phenol or other contaminants. Plasmid DNA preps that are endotoxin-free are desirable.
- **Presence of antibiotics and other inhibitors.** Antibiotics will inhibit transfection complex formation and therefore should be excluded from the complex formation step. Transfection complexes can be added to cells grown in complete culture medium containing serum and low levels of antibiotics if required.
- **Complex formation conditions.** Prepare TransfeX Reagent and DNA complexes in serum-free growth medium. ATCC recommends using Opti-MEM I Reduced-Serum Medium to dilute the DNA before complex formation.

Materials required:

Material Required	ATCC® No.
Neural Progenitor Cells, either non-reporter or reporter-labeled lines	ACS-5003™, ACS-5004™, ACS-5005™, ACS-5006™, or ACS-5007™
Complete growth media	ACS-3003™
TransfeX™	ACS-4005™
Opti-MEM® I Reduced-Serum Media	Life Technologies™ 31985-062
Plasmid DNA of interest (1 µg/µL)	
Tissue culture plates and supplies	

Protocol:

The following protocol describes how to transfect plasmid DNA into NPCs using the TransfeX Reagent in **a single well of a 12-well plate**. The reaction may be scaled up as needed. Please refer to Table 1 for recommended reaction conditions for other dish or plate sizes.

A. Preparation of the cells for transfection

The day before transfection:

1. Count and measure cells for density and viability.
2. Plate **3.0 x 10⁵** cells per well in complete NPC growth medium (ACS-3003) or equivalent NPC growth media. Cell density should be 70-90% confluent on the day of transfection.
3. Incubate cells overnight at **37°C** with **5% CO₂**.

The day of transfection:

1. Remove old media.
2. Replace old media with fresh complete NP growth media to a total volume of 1.0 mL/well.

B. Preparation of TransfeX:DNA transfection complexes

1. Warm TransfeX, plasmid DNA, and Opti-MEM I Reduced-Serum Medium to room temperature and vortex gently to mix.
2. Pipette **100 µL** Opti-MEM I Reduced-Serum Medium into a sterile microcentrifuge tube.
3. Add **1.0 µL** (1.0 µg/µL) plasmid DNA.
4. Mix thoroughly with gently pipetting.
5. Add **1.0 µL** TransfeX Reagent to the diluted DNA mixture. *Note: Do not let the pipette tip or the reagent come into contact with the sides of the plastic tube.*
6. Mix TransfeX:DNA complexes thoroughly using either a vortex or by pipetting briefly.
7. Collect contents at bottom of the tube using a mini-centrifuge.
8. Incubate TransfeX:DNA complexes at room temperature for 15 minutes.

C. Addition of TransfeX:DNA transfection complexes to the cells

1. Distribute the complexes to the cells by adding the complexes drop-wise to different areas of the wells.
2. Gently rock the culture vessel back and forth and from side to side to evenly distribute the TransfeX:DNA complexes. The plate may also be lightly tapped against the biosafety cabinet surface to help distribute cells.
3. Replace transfection medium with fresh complete growth medium next day and incubate for **24-72** hours.

Table 1: Recommended Reaction Conditions for different size culture vessels.

Culture Vessel	96-well plate	24-well plate	12-well plate	6-well plate	10-cm dish
Surface area	0.35 cm ²	1.9 cm ²	3.8 cm ²	9.6 cm ²	59 cm ²
Cell seeding	2.8 x 10 ⁴ per well	1.5 x 10 ⁵ per well	3.0 x 10 ⁵ per well	7.7 x 10 ⁵ per well	4.7 x 10 ⁶ per well
Complete Growth Medium	0.1 mL	0.5 mL	1.0 mL	2.0 mL	10 mL
Opti-MEM I Reduced Serum Medium	20 µL	50 µL	100 µL	200 µL	1.0 mL
DNA (1 µg/µL stock)	0.1 µg	0.5 µg	1.0 µg	2.0 µg	10 µg
TransfeX Reagent	0.1 µL	0.5 µL	1.0 µL	2.0 µL	10 µL

Notes:

1. To achieve high transgene expression ATCC recommends using a strong promoter, such as EF1α.
2. Include a control condition consisting of an empty vector plasmid or a plasmid expressing GFP.

Figure 1. Transfection efficiency of TransfeX reagent on NPCs (ACS-5003). Cells were transfected with EF1α-GFP pD2539-CEM-03 vector (~10 kb) at 1.0 µg DNA with 1.0 µL of reagent (1:1) in Opti-MEM I Reduced Serum Media in a 12-well plate. Flow analysis shows 98.9% GFP expression in NPCs day 2 post-transfection. Images were acquired 48 hours post-transfection.

