



MCF-12A

CRL-3598™

Description

MCF-12A is an epithelial cell that was isolated from the mammary gland of a White, 60-year-old female patient. MCF-12A cell line is a non-tumorigenic epithelial cell line from tissue taken at reduction mammoplasty from a nulliparous patient with fibrocystic breast disease that had focal areas of intraductal hyperplasia. This product is an ATCC manufactured and accessioned progeny of ATCC CRL-10782 cited in US Pat. No. 5,206,165.

Organism: *Homo sapiens*, human

Cell Type: epithelial cell

Tissue: Breast; Mammary gland

Age: 60 years

Gender: Female

Morphology: epithelial

Growth properties: Adherent

Storage Conditions

Product format: Frozen

Storage conditions: Vapor phase of liquid nitrogen

Intended Use

This product is intended for laboratory research use only. It is not intended for any animal or human therapeutic use, any human or animal consumption, or any diagnostic use.

BSL 1

ATCC determines the biosafety level of a material based on our risk assessment as guided by the current edition of *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is your responsibility to understand the hazards associated with the material per your organization's policies and procedures as well as any other applicable regulations as enforced by your local or national agencies.

ATCC highly recommends that appropriate personal protective equipment is always used when handling vials. For cultures that require storage in liquid nitrogen, it is important to note that some vials may leak when submersed in liquid nitrogen and will slowly fill with liquid nitrogen. Upon thawing, the conversion of the liquid nitrogen back to its gas phase may result in the vial exploding or blowing off its cap with dangerous force creating flying debris. Unless necessary, ATCC recommends that these cultures be stored in the vapor phase of liquid nitrogen rather than submersed in liquid nitrogen.

Certificate of Analysis

For batch-specific test results, refer to the applicable certificate of analysis that can be found at www.atcc.org.

Growth Conditions

Temperature: 37°C

Atmosphere: 95% Air, 5% CO₂

Handling Procedures

Complete medium: A 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium and Ham's F12 medium, 20 ng/ml Human epidermal growth factor, 100 ng/ml cholera toxin, 0.01 mg/ml bovine insulin and 500 ng/ml hydrocortisone, 95%; horse serum, 5%

Handling Procedure:

To insure the highest level of viability, thaw the vial and initiate the culture as soon as possible upon receipt. If upon arrival, continued storage of the frozen culture is necessary, it should be stored in liquid nitrogen vapor phase and not at -70°C.

Storage at -70°C will result in loss of viability.

1. Thaw the vial by gentle agitation in a **37°C** water bath. To reduce the possibility of contamination, keep the O-ring and cap out of the water. Thawing should be rapid (approximately 2 minutes).
2. Remove the vial from the water bath as soon as the contents are thawed, and decontaminate by dipping in or spraying with 70% ethanol. All of the operations from this point on should be carried out under strict aseptic conditions.
3. It is recommended that the cryoprotective agent be removed immediately. Centrifuge the cell suspension at approximately 125 x g for 5 to 10 minutes. Discard the supernatant and resuspend the cell pellet in an appropriate amount of fresh growth medium.
4. Transfer the cells to a 75 cm² tissue culture flask and dilute with the recommended complete culture medium (see the specific batch information for the recommended dilution ratio). It is important to avoid excessive alkalinity of the medium during recovery of the cells. It is suggested that, prior to the addition of the vial contents, the culture vessel containing the growth medium be placed into the incubator for at least 15 minutes to allow the medium to reach its normal pH (7.0 to 7.6).
5. Incubate the culture at **37°C** in a suitable incubator. A 5% CO₂ in air atmosphere is recommended if using the medium described on this product sheet.

Subculturing procedure:

Volumes used in this protocol are for 75 cm² flask; proportionally reduce or increase amount of dissociation medium for culture vessels of other sizes.

1. Remove and discard culture medium.
2. Briefly rinse the cell layer with 0.25% (w/v) Trypsin-0.03% (w/v) EDTA solution to remove all traces of serum which contains trypsin inhibitor.

3. Add 2.0 to 3.0 mL of Trypsin-EDTA solution to flask and observe cells under an inverted microscope until cell layer is dispersed (usually with 5 to 15 minutes).
Note: To avoid clumping do not agitate the cells by hitting or shaking the flask while waiting for the cells to detach. Cells that are difficult to detach may be placed at 37°C to facilitate dispersal.
4. Add 6.0 to 8.0 mL of complete growth medium and aspirate cells by gently pipetting.
5. To remove trypsin-EDTA solution, transfer cell suspension to centrifuge tube and spin at approximately 125 x *g* for 5 to 10 minutes.
6. Discard supernatant and resuspend cells in fresh culture medium. Add appropriate aliquots of cell suspension to new culture vessels.
7. Place culture vessels in incubators at 37°C.

Subcultivation inoculum: 1-2 x 10⁴ viable cells/cm²

Medium Renewal: Every 2 to 3 days

Reagents for cryopreservation: Complete culture medium supplemented with 5% (v/v) DMSO. Cell culture tested DMSO is available as ATCC Catalog No. 4-X.

Note: Lots manufactured prior to 05/20/2020 may have used a different cryopreservative, contact Product Experience if needed.

Material Citation

If use of this material results in a scientific publication, please cite the material in the following manner: MCF-12A (ATCC CRL-3598)

References

References and other information relating to this material are available at www.atcc.org.

Warranty

The product is provided 'AS IS' and the viability of ATCC® products is warranted for 30 days from the date of shipment, provided that the customer has stored and handled the product according to the information included on the product information sheet, website, and Certificate of Analysis. For living cultures, ATCC lists the media formulation and reagents that have been found to be effective for the product. While other unspecified media and reagents may also produce satisfactory results, a change in the ATCC and/or depositor-recommended protocols may affect the recovery, growth, and/or function of the product. If an alternative medium formulation or reagent is used, the ATCC warranty for viability is no longer valid. Except as expressly set forth herein, no other warranties of any kind are provided, express or implied, including, but not limited to, any implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, manufacture according to cGMP standards, typicality, safety, accuracy, and/or noninfringement.

Disclaimers

This product is intended for laboratory research use only. It is not intended for any animal or human therapeutic use, any human or animal consumption, or any diagnostic use. Any proposed commercial use is prohibited without a [license from ATCC](#).

While ATCC uses reasonable efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information on this product sheet, ATCC makes no warranties or representations as to its accuracy. Citations from scientific literature and patents are provided for informational purposes only. ATCC does not warrant that such information has been confirmed to be accurate or complete and the customer bears the sole responsibility of confirming the accuracy and completeness of any such information.

This product is sent on the condition that the customer is responsible for and assumes all risk and responsibility in connection with the receipt, handling, storage, disposal, and use of the ATCC product including without limitation taking all appropriate safety and handling precautions to minimize health or environmental risk. As a condition of receiving the material, the customer agrees that any activity undertaken with the ATCC product and any progeny or modifications will be conducted in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines. This

product is provided 'AS IS' with no representations or warranties whatsoever except as expressly set forth herein and in no event shall ATCC, its parents, subsidiaries, directors, officers, agents, employees, assigns, successors, and affiliates be liable for indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages of any kind in connection with or arising out of the customer's use of the product. While reasonable effort is made to ensure authenticity and reliability of materials on deposit, ATCC is not liable for damages arising from the misidentification or misrepresentation of such materials.

Please see the material transfer agreement (MTA) for further details regarding the use of this product. The MTA is available at www.atcc.org.

Copyright and Trademark Information

© ATCC 2023. All rights reserved.

ATCC is a registered trademark of the American Type Culture Collection.

Revision

This information on this document was last updated on 2025-10-17

Contact Information

ATCC

10801 University Boulevard

Manassas, VA 20110-2209

USA

US telephone: 800-638-6597

Worldwide telephone: +1-703-365-2700

Email: tech@atcc.org or contact your local distributor