**Handling Procedure for Frozen Cells**

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. Transfer the vial contents to a centrifuge tube containing 9.0 mL complete culture medium and spin at approximately 125 x g for 5 to 7 minutes.
4. Resuspend cell pellet with the recommended complete medium (see the specific batch information for the culture recommended dilution ratio) and dispense into a 25 cm² or a 75 cm² culture flask. 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 complete 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.

**Handling Procedure for Flask Cultures**

1. Upon receipt, visually examine the culture for macroscopic evidence of any microbial contamination. Using an inverted microscope (preferably equipped with phase-contrast optics), carefully check for any evidence of microbial contamination. Also, check to determine if the majority of cells are still attached to the bottom of the flask; during shipping the cultures are sometimes handled roughly and many of the cells often detach and become suspended in the culture medium (but are still viable).
2. If the cells are still attached, aseptically remove all but 5 to 10 mL of the shipping medium. The shipping medium can be saved for reuse. Incubate the cells at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ in air atmosphere until they are ready to be subcultured.
3. If the cells are not attached, aseptically remove the entire contents of the flask and centrifuge at 125 x g for 5 to 10 minutes. Remove shipping medium and save. Resuspend the pelleted cells in 10 mL of this medium and add to 25 cm² flask. Incubate at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ in air atmosphere until cells

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**Organism:** *Mus musculus*, mouse  
**Strain:** C57BL/6  
**Tissue:** bone, calvaria  
**Cell Type:** preosteoblast  
**Age:** newborn  
**Morphology:** fibroblast  
**Growth Properties:** adherent
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-0.53% (w/v) EDTA solution to remove all traces of serum that 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 within 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. Add appropriate aliquots of the cell suspension to new culture vessels.
6. Incubate cultures at 37°C

**Subculture Ratio:** 1:6 to 1:8

**Medium Renewal:** Every 2 to 3 days.

**Note:** For more information on enzymatic dissociation and subculturing of cell lines consult Chapter 10 in *Culture of Animal Cells, a manual of Basic Technique* by R. Ian Freshney, 3rd edition, published by Alan R. Liss, N.Y., 1994

Cryopreservation Medium

Complete culture medium described above supplemented with 5% (v/v) DMSO.

Cell culture tested DMSO is available as ATCC Catalog No. 4-X.

Comments

The subclones were selected for high or low osteoblast differentiation and mineralization after growth in medium containing ascorbic acid.

The MC3T3-E1 Subclone 4 (ATCC CRL-2593) and the MC3T3 Subclone 14 (ATCC CRL-2594) lines exhibit high levels of osteoblast differentiation after growth in ascorbic acid and 3 to 4 mM inorganic phosphate. They form a well mineralized extracellular matrix (ECM) after 10 days.

The MC3T3 Subclone 24 (ATCC CRL-2595) and the MC3T3 Subclone 30 (ATCC CRL-2596) lines exhibit poor osteoblast differentiation after growth in ascorbic acid. They do not form ECM. They can be used as negative controls for Subclones 4 and 14. Mineralizing subclones selectively express mRNAs for the osteoblast markers, bone sialoprotein (BSP), osteocalcin (OCN), and the parathyroid hormone (PTH)/parathyroid hormone-related protein (PTHrP) receptor.

Subclones with both high and low differentiation potential produce similar amounts of collagen in culture and express comparable basal levels of mRNA encoding Oster2/Cbfal1, an osteoblast-related transcription factor. After implantation into immunodeficient mice, highly differentiating subclones form bone-like ossicles resembling woven bone, while poorly differentiating cells only produce fibrous tissue.

**References**

References and other information relating to this product are available online at [www.atcc.org](http://www.atcc.org).

**Biosafety Level:** 1

Appropriate safety procedures should always be used with this material. Laboratory safety is discussed in the current publication of the *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes for Health.

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