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Cryo-EM sample preparation for full length LRRK2(I2020T):MLi-2/GZD-824-E11 DARPin complex

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We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

Guide for cryo-EM grid preparation of FL-LRRK2 bound to Type-I/Type-II inhibitors

Materials

Vitrobot (Thermo Fisher Scientific)

Safety warnings

- ❗ Handle liquid nitrogen with gloves and face shields equipped all the time. Handle liquid ethane with face shields all the time.

Before start

Before starting cryo-EM grid preparation section: Set up Vitrobot at 95% humidity and 4C. Put new paper blot



Protein purification

- 1 His6-Z-TEV-LRRK2 was expressed and purified as described in a previous protocol

Protocol

NAME

LRRK1 expression and purification

CREATED BY

Robert Fagiewicz

Preview

Sample preparation

- 2 Prepare LRRK2 buffer. Keep it at 4°C.
20 millimolar (mM) HEPES pH=7.4
150 millimolar (mM) NaCl
2.5 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
20 micromolar (μM) GDP
0.5 millimolar (mM) TCEP
- 3 Spin down purified LRRK2 (10000 rcf, 4°C, 10 minutes). Leave protein on ice afterward. For the best result, keep protein on ice and reduce the amount of time between spinning and freezing cryo-EM samples.
- 4 Thaw E11 DARPin and spin it down. Measure its concentration.
- 5 Dilute inhibitors (diluted in 100% DMSO) to an intermediate desired concentration using LRRK2 buffer.
- 6 Based on the initial and final LRRK2 concentration, calculate the necessary volume of E11 DARPin to get a proportional ratio LRRK2:E11 DARPin 1:1.25 in the sample. After that, add either MLI-2 or GZD-824. Dilute to your final desired LRRK2 concentration using LRRK2 buffer (150 mM NaCl).

**Note**

In our samples, final concentrations were:

5 μ M LRRK2

6.25 μ M E11 DARPin

Either MLI-2 or GZD-824 at a final concentration 20 μ M and 40 μ M, respectively.

- 7 Incubate 10 minutes at RT. Afterward, keep it on ice until grid preparation.

cryo-EM grid preparation

- 8 We used UltraAuFoil Holey Gold 2/2 200 mesh grids and plasma cleaning them in the Solarus II (Gatan) using the QuantiFoil Au preset.
- 9 Apply 3 to 3.5 microliters (μ l) of sample and plunge freeze. We used a Vitrobot (FEI) to blot away excess sample and plunge freeze in ethane liquid. (In our case, we use 4 seconds as a time blot as 20 sec as a wait time and 4 as a blot force, but these parameters are slightly different from one Vitrobot to another. I would try with the Vitrobot parameters already tested in your machine first).
- 10 Store grids in liquid nitrogen until ready for imaging