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 We use this protocol and it's working

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Freezing and processing intestinal biopsies for the isolation of CD45+ leukocytes

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ABSTRACT

This protocol is designed for the freezing, thawing, and processing of human intestinal pinch biopsies for isolation of live CD45+ leukocytes and downstream applications such as flow cytometry or single-cell RNA-sequencing.

ATTACHMENTS

[Oxford Human Cell Atlas protocol – Freezing and processing intestinal biopsies - v1.00.docx](#)

MATERIALS

Reagents

Item	Catalog #	Company
MACS Tissue Storage Solution	130-100-008	Miltenyi Biotec
Cryostor Cs10 Cryopreservation medium	C2874	Sigma-Aldrich
RPMI-1640 media	R0883-500ml	Sigma-Aldrich
FBS	n/a	Multiple
Penicillin/Streptomycin	15140-122	Gibco
HEPES Buffer (1M)	15630-056	Gibco

	Percoll	GE17-0891-01	Sigma-Aldrich
	10x PBS	10649743	Fisher Scientific
	DNase I	11284932001	Sigma-Aldrich
	Collagenase D	11088882001	Sigma-Aldrich

Equipment

	Item	Catalog #	Company
	CoolCell LX cell freezing container	15552771	Fisher Scientific
	gentleMACS C Tube	130-093-237	Miltenyi Biotec
	Cell strainer 70 micron	352350	Falcon
	Glass Pasteur pipettes	612-1701	VWR

Media

Complete media

500 ml of RPMI-1640 media

50 ml of FBS

5 ml of Penicillin/Streptavidin

5 ml of HEPES

Digestion media (per sample)

5 ml of Complete Media

100 ul Collagenase D (stock: 50 mg/ml)

25 ul DNase I (stock: 2 mg/ml)

Percoll solutions:

Stock isotonic percoll (9 parts Percoll, 1 part 10xPBS)

36 ml Percoll

4 ml 10x PBS

70% percoll (7 parts stock isotonic percoll, 3 parts 1x PBS)

7mL stock isotonic percoll

3mL 1x PBS

35% percoll (1 part 70% percoll, 1 RPMI-1640)

10mL 70% percoll

10mL RPMI-1640

Stage 1 - Collection in Endoscopy

- 1** Collect endoscopic biopsies into 50ml falcon tube with 5ml of cold MACS tissue storage solution.
- 2** Ensure all biopsies are immersed in the solution.
- 3** Keep on ice until ready to freeze.
- 4** Move onto Stage 2 as soon as possible, within 6 hours maximum.

Stage 2 - Freezing samples

- 5** Perform all stages in the hood.
- 6** Ensure that a CoolCell LX cell freezing container is available, and is defrosted to room temperature.

- 7 Label a cryovial for each sample, as appropriate.
- 8 Add 1000µl of Cs10 to cryovial.
- 9 Carefully remove all MACS tissue storage solution from the 50ml falcon with a pastette (transfer pipette) and P1000 pipette, taking care not to disrupt or discard the biopsies.
- 10 Using sterile forceps, transfer the biopsies into the Cs10-containing cryovial.
- 11 Place cryovials into CoolCell LX and transfer to -80 C freezer.
- 12 Move to Stage 3 on the next working day if possible.

Stage 3 - transfer samples to storage location

- 13 Remove sample from CoolCell LX and transfer to liquid nitrogen box (if for long-term storage), or to -80 C box (if planned for use in next 2 months).

Stage 4 - thawing and digesting biopsies

- 14 Perform all stages in the hood.
- 15 Warm Complete Media and Digestion Media to 37 C prior to beginning.
- 16 Proceed quickly to remove the biopsies from the freezing media.
- 17 Fill a gentleMACS C tube with 5 ml of Digestion Media.
- 18 Fill an appropriately labelled 15 ml conical with 9 ml of Complete Media.
- 19 Begin to thaw the frozen biopsy in a 37 C waterbath.
- 20 When the frozen biopsy begins to thaw, but haven't thawed completely, remove from the water bath and transfer to the hood.
- 21 Finish thawing the biopsy by adding 1 ml of Complete Media (from the 15 ml conical) dropwise.
- 22 Use a pastette to transfer the media and biopsies into the appropriate 15 ml conical.

- 23** Place a 70 micron cell strainer onto a 50 ml conical.
- 24** Pour the biopsies onto the strainer.
- 25** Wash with 20 ml of Complete Media.
- 26** Use sterile forceps to transfer the biopsies into a gentleMACS C tube filled with 5 ml of Digestion Media.
- 27** Homogenize on the gentleMACS using programme brain 01_02 (gentle).
Tissue tends to get caught in the rotor blade of the gentleMACS tube, use pastette to return to bottom of tube.
- 28** Place in a 37 C shaking incubator (220 rpm) for 1 h.
- 29** Homogenize on the gentleMACS using programme m_intestine_01.
- 30** Strain cells through 70µm filter into 50mL falcon tube. Pour onto filter.

- 31** Grind remaining tissue (use plunger from a syringe to break up any clumps on top of filter (pestle and mortar-action).
Wash any cells around blades, on filter or still in tube using Complete Media and a pastette.
- 32** Centrifuge at 600 g for 10 minutes at 4 °C.
- 33** Resuspend in 20 ml of Complete Media.

Stage 5 - Lymphocyte enrichment

- 34** Centrifuge at 600 g for 5 minutes at 4 °C.
- 35** Resuspend cell pellet in 6mL of 35% Percoll.
- 36** Transfer to 15mL falcon tube.
- 37** Underlay 3 mL of 70% Percoll solution using a glass Pasteur pipette.
- 38** Centrifuge at 800xg for 20 minutes (at RT) without the brake (decrease acceleration to 7).

- 39** Take the layer between 35% and 70% Percoll and transfer to a new 15mL falcon tube.
Before removing interphase, remove some of the top layer to avoid stromal cell contamination of mononuclear fraction.
- 40** Fill the tube to 15 ml with Complete Media.
- 41** Centrifuge at 600xg for 5 minutes.
- 42** Remove supernatant.
- 43** Resuspend cell pellet in 10mL Complete Media.
- 44** Count cells using trypan blue.
- 45** Cells are now ready for downstream applications