

Jun 06, 2019

Version 2

Thawing and Seeding Frozen Cells V.2

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3rcgm2w



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DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.3rcgm2w>

Protocol Citation: Kenneth Schackart 2019. Thawing and Seeding Frozen Cells. **protocols.io**

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

Created: June 05, 2019

Last Modified: June 06, 2019

Protocol Integer ID: 24068

Keywords: thaw cells from the liquid nitrogen storage, seeding frozen cell, thaw cell, tissue culture flask, liquid nitrogen storage, cell, liquid nitrogen, tissue

Abstract

How to thaw cells from the liquid nitrogen storage and seed into a tissue culture flask

Guidelines

- Gloves must be worn at all times.
- Perform all tasks within biosafety cabinet.
- Anything entering biosafety cabinet must be generously sprayed with 70% ethanol (even you).
- When finished, wipe biosafety cabinet with 70% ethanol, and UV for at least 15 minutes.

Materials

(1) T-75 or T-25 flask per frozen cell vial (or more if plating at a lower density)

(1) 15 mL centrifuge tube per frozen cell vial



(1) 10 mL serological pipet tip per T-75 flask or (1) 5 mL serological pipet tip per T-25 flask

Warmed cell culture media

1000 µL filter pipette tips


Troubleshooting

Before start

- Warm cell culture media, DPBS, and Trypsin-EDTA in  37 °C water bath.
- Wash waste beaker with soap and warm water, then dry with paper towel.
- Expose serological pipet tips, centrifuge tube, and waste beaker to UV for at least  00:15:00 .



Thaw Cells

- 1 Thaw cells by suspending cryotube in  37 °C water bath until completely thawed, but no longer than necessary

Transfer cell suspension


- 2 Within biosafety cabinet, transfer cell suspension to 15 mL centrifuge tube using 1000 µL pipette.

Dilute freezing medium



- 3 Add  1 mL warmed cell culture medium to cell suspension *dropwise*.

Note

Adding the initial cell culture medium slowly helps prevent cell death caused by a rapid change in osmotic pressure.

- 4 Add an additional  3 mL warmed cell culture medium to cell suspension slowly.

Centrifuge cell suspension

- 5 Centrifuge the cell suspension at  1500 rpm for  00:03:00 .


Resuspend Cells

- 6 Remove bulk of supernatant with serological pipet, then remove remainder with 1000 µL pipette.



Note

For small cell pellets, you are better off leaving a small amount of media than disturbing the cell pellet.

- 7 Add  1 mL warmed cell culture media to cell pellet.

Note

Allowing the cell pellet rest in media for about 2 minutes will help with resuspension.

- 8 Gently pipette mix the cell pellet into the solution.

- 9 Add an additional  7 mL warmed cell culture media [ 3 mL for T-25].

Seed Cells

- 10 Using a serological pipet, transfer the cell suspension to the tissue culture flask.

Label Flask

- 11 Label the flask with:
- Cell line
 - Passage number
 - Date
 - Your initials

Incubate

- 12 Transfer flask to CO₂ incubator.



Documentation

- 13 Don't forget to remove the vial you used from the frozen storage inventory.