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1. Description

1.1 Purpose

This protocol describes the isolation of mesenchymal stem or stromal cells (MSCs) from human cell sources (like bone marrow, umbilical cord or adipose tissue) by plastic adherence and subsequent expansion.

1.2 Reagent and instrument requirements

- MSC-Brew GMP Medium 2000 mL (# 170-076-325)
MSC-Brew GMP Basal Medium, 2000 mL bag (# 170-076-322)
4×5.0 mL MSC-Brew GMP Supplement I 100× (vial) (# 170-076-323)
4×5.0 mL MSC-Brew GMP Supplement II 100× (vial) (# 170-076-320)
- MSC-Brew GMP Medium 500 mL (# 170-076-326)
MSC-Brew GMP Basal Medium, 500 mL bag (# 170-076-315)
1×5.0 mL MSC-Brew GMP Supplement I 100× (vial) (# 170-076-323)
1×5.0 mL MSC-Brew GMP Supplement II 100× (vial) (# 170-076-320)
- MSC-Brew GMP Medium, 2000 mL bag (#170-076-331)
MSC-Brew GMP Basal Medium, 2000 mL bag (# 170-076-322)
2×20 mL MSC-Brew GMP Supplement, 20 mL bag (# 170-076-330)
- MSC-Brew GMP Medium, 500 mL bag (# 170-076-332)
MSC-Brew GMP Basal Medium, 500 mL bag (# 170-076-315)
1×10 mL MSC-Brew GMP Supplement, 10 mL bag (# 170-076-329)
- Detachment enzyme (e.g. Trypsin-based)

- Enzyme stop solution (e.g. Trypsin inhibitor)
- CliniMACS® PBS/EDTA Buffer (# 700-25)
- Tissue culture vessel
- (Optional) CryoMACS® DMSO 10 (EP) (# 170-076-303)
- (Optional) CryoMACS Freezing Bag, 50–1000 mL (e.g. CryoMACS Freezing Bag 50 # 200-074-400)
- (Optional) Trypan Blue Stain (Thermo Fisher Scientific, # 15250-061)
- CO₂ incubator, +37 °C (+99 °F) with 5% CO₂ in air and >95% humidity
- Centrifuge
- Microscope
- (Optional) MACSQuant® Analyzer 16 (# 130-109-803) or MACSQuant Analyzer 10 (# 130-096-343)
- (Optional) Hemocytometer

2. Protocol

Isolation and expansion of human mesenchymal stem or stromal cells (MSCs) from primary tissue

MSCs are present at low frequencies in bone marrow samples as well as other tissues. This often necessitates their expansion. The MSC-Brew GMP Medium is an optimized and standardized medium for the reproducible and reliable isolation and expansion of MSCs from human bone marrow and other human tissues, such as adipose tissue and umbilical cord.

2.1 Preparation of MSC-Brew GMP Medium

For preparation and usage of complete MSC-Brew GMP Medium please refer to the data sheets of MSC-Brew GMP Medium 2000 mL (# 170-076-325 or # 170-076-331) and MSC-Brew GMP Medium 500 mL (# 170-076-326 or # 170-076-332).

2.2 Isolation of MSCs from primary tissue

- ▲ No coating is necessary.
 - ▲ No additives are necessary.
1. Pre-warm supplemented MSC-Brew GMP Medium (referred as complete media) to +37 °C (+99 °F).
 2. Prepare a suspension of human primary cells in MSC-Brew GMP Medium.
 3. Determine cell number.

- Transfer the appropriate amount of cells into a cell culture vessel using the appropriate cell density. An optimal cell density depending on the corresponding human tissue source can be found in table 1.

Human tissue source	Seeding density (cell number/cm ²)	Cell culture medium (mL/cm ²)
Bone marrow mononuclear cells (BM MNC)	1.6×10 ⁵	0.2
Stromal vascular fraction (SVF)	1×10 ⁵	0.2
Cord blood (CB)	1.6×10 ⁵	0.2

Table 1: Optimal seeding density and cell culture medium volume per cm² for cultivation of primary MSCs using MSC-Brew GMP Medium

- Culture cells at +37 °C (+99 °F) in an incubator with 5% CO₂ and >95% humidity.
- Change complete medium after 24–48 hours.
- Change medium every 4–5 days by removing medium completely from culture vessel and adding an appropriate amount of fresh complete MSC-Brew GMP Medium. Continue culturing the cells.
- Check your cell culture under a microscope regularly. When MSCs have reached 80% confluency (presumably around day 10), proceed with passaging of MSCs (see 2.3.)

2.3 Expansion and passaging of human MSCs

The following procedure can also be used for frozen MSCs as well as for transferring a maintained MSC culture into MSC-Brew GMP Medium. MSCs can be transferred directly to MSC-Brew GMP Medium, without prior adaptation from any other culture medium (including serum-containing medium). It is recommended to seed MSCs with a density of 3×10³ MSCs/cm².

- Pre-warm detachment enzyme, CliniMACS PBS/EDTA Buffer and MSC-Brew GMP Medium to +37 °C (+99 °F).
 - Remove MSC-Brew GMP Medium from the tissue culture vessel.
 - Wash cells with CliniMACS PBS/EDTA Buffer to remove residual medium.
 - Add detachment enzyme to cover cells and incubate at +37 °C (+99 °F) for 5–10 minutes.
 - Check under a microscope that MSCs are completely detached and dissociated. If cells are not fully detached, gently tap flask or increase incubation time for 2–5 minutes.
- ▲ **Note:** Good results were achieved using a Trypsin-based detachment reagent.
- Once MSCs are completely detached, add Trypsin Inhibitor and resuspend cells in MSC-Brew GMP Medium and transfer cell suspension into an appropriate vessel or bag.

- Wash the cell culture vessel with an additional amount of MSC-Brew GMP Medium and add this solution into the same vessel or bag.
- Centrifuge cells at 300×g for 5–10 minutes at room temperature.
- Remove supernatant and carefully resuspend cells in MSC-Brew GMP Medium.
- Determine cell number and viability of cells (using for example a hemocytometer or MACSQuant Analyzer 16 or MACSQuant Analyzer 10).
- Plate 3×10³ cells/cm² into new culture vessel with fresh MSC-Brew GMP Medium.
- Culture cells at +37 °C (+99 °F) in an incubator with 5% CO₂ and >95% humidity.
- Check your cell culture under a microscope regularly. Before MSCs have reached 80% confluency, approx. after 2–4 days, repeat the passaging procedure.
- MSC-Brew GMP Medium needs to be exchanged every 2–3 days by removing medium completely from culture vessel and adding an appropriate amount of fresh and complete MSC-Brew GMP Medium.
- Repeat expansion procedure until the desired number of cells is reached.

2.4 Cryopreservation of human MSCs

- Rapidly resuspend MSC pellet with cold Freezing Solution.
- ▲ **Note:** Good results were achieved freezing 0.5–1.0×10⁶ cells/mL (1 mL per vial) using 90% MSC-Brew GMP Medium + 10% CryoMACS DMSO 10 (EP).
- Immediately place the cryovials or cryobags in appropriate freezing container and store at –80 °C (–112 °F) overnight.
 - Transfer the cryovials or cryobags into liquid nitrogen.

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