PRIMACYT
Cell Culture Technology

Thawing and Culturing of Cryopreserved Primary Hepatocytes in 2D and Suspension

Updated 05.10.2026
Version 16

Required and recommended media and consumables

- Thawing and Plating Kit consists of
  - HTM: Hepatocyte Thawing Medium (aliquot to 41 mL before use if provided in bottles)
  - HWM: Hepatocyte Washing Medium (14 mL)
  - Customised Plating Medium tailored for the different species:
    - HM-cryo (Rat, Minipig, 30 mL)
    - L-15-cryo (Fish, 10 mL)
    - HPM-cryo (all other species, 30 mL)
- We strongly recommend to use the customised plating media to start the culture of our cryopreserved hepatocytes. If the cryopreserved hepatocytes are intended to be used in suspension, we only suggest to use HM-cryo, L-15-cryo or HPM-cryo, respectively.
- If the client prefers to use other suspension media, HTM and HWM may also be purchased separately as Thawing Kit (TK-1).
- Culture media (e. g. HHMM, 3D-HMM) are not included in this kit
- Collagen coated cell culture plates (not included in this kit)
  - Necessary for most species
  - Please see donor datasheet for details about recommended culture plates

Tab. 1: Details for thawing and culture of cryopreserved hepatocytes

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Category</th><th rowspan="2">Species</th><th rowspan="2">Application</th><th rowspan="2">Centrifugation steps</th><th colspan="2">Recommended media for</th></tr>
<tr><th>Plating and Suspension</th><th>2D/3D culture</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Mammals</td><td>Human</td><td rowspan="3">Suspension, 2D/3D culture</td><td rowspan="3">100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min</td><td rowspan="3">HPM Cryo</td><td rowspan="3">2D: HHMM

3D: 3D-HMM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cynomolgus</td></tr>
<tr><td>Beagle</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minipig</td><td>Suspension, 2D culture</td><td>100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min</td><td>HM Cryo</td><td rowspan="3">2D: HHMM

3D: 3D-HMM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Landrace Pig</td><td rowspan="3">Suspension, 2D culture</td><td rowspan="3">100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min</td><td rowspan="3">HPM Cryo</td></tr>
<tr><td>Horse</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rabbit</td></tr>
</table>

Category	Species	Application	Centrifugation steps	Recommended media for	
				Plating and Suspension	2D/3D culture
Mammals	Sheep	Suspension	200 x g at 20 °C for 10 min	HPM Cryo	-
	Mouse	Suspension, 2D culture	50 x g at 20 °C for 10 min		2D: HHMM 3D: 3D-HMM
	Rat		100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min	HM Cryo	
	Cat		100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min	HPM cryo	2D: HHMM

- For 3D cultures: please see our separate manual entitled "**3D-Spheroid Culture of Cryopreserved Primary Hepatocytes**".

Tab. 2: Details for thawing and culture of cryopreserved hepatocytes from birds and fishes

Category	Species	Application	Centrifugation steps	Recommended media for	
				Plating and Suspension	2D culture
Birds	Chicken	Suspension	200 x g at 20 °C for 10 min	HPM Cryo	HHMM
	Turkey	Suspension	100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min		-
	Duck	Suspension, 2D culture			HHMM
Fish	Rainbow Trout	Suspension, 2D culture	100 x g at 20 °C for 10 min	L-15 Cryo (suspension) FHM (plating)	FHM
	Atlantic salmon	Suspension			-
	Common Carp	Suspension, 2D culture			FHM

PRIMACYT
Cell Culture Technology

1. Arrival of the cryopreserved cells in your laboratory

- Place the cryogenic vial with frozen hepatocytes immediately into the gas phase of a liquid nitrogen tank or in a freezer at a temperature below -135 °C.

2. Thawing and Plating of primary hepatocytes

1. Warm water bath, HTM, and HWM to 37 °C. For thawing of fish hepatocytes use both media at 10-20 °C
   - Aliquot HTM into 41 mL per tube (in case it is provided in bottles)
2. Set plating medium or your preferred medium for suspension assays to room temperature
3. Remove the vial with hepatocytes form liquid nitrogen storage/-150 °C and place it immediately into the 37 °C warm water bath until the cell suspension is thawed (approx. 1-2 min)
4. Spray 70 % ethanol on the cryogenic vial for disinfection
5. Transfer the cell suspension into the tube with HTM
6. Wash the cryogenic vial with 0.5-1 mL HWM to remove the cells completely and combine it with the cells in the tube
7. Add HWM to a final volume of 50 mL
8. Rotate the tube slowly two-three times
9. Pellet the hepatocytes by centrifugation (spin time and speed as stated in Tab. 1-2)
10. Remove the supernatant, gently loosen the cells without adding any medium by gently agitating the bottom of the tube. Do not vortex or shake the cells.
11. Re-suspend the pellet in required Plating Medium (see data sheet for post-thaw yield per vial)
12. Determine cell viability and live cell number with the trypan blue exclusion test in a counting chamber (Neubauer or equivalent counting chamber). Do not use automated cell counter
13. Adjust cell suspension to the desired density for plating with required amount of plating medium
    - The actual seeding density may vary from lot to lot. The recommended seeding densities to reach confluent or nearly confluent plates and the density for suspension assays for each lot are stated in the accompanying data sheet.
    - Table 3 gives an overview about the recommended media volumes for plating, washing and culture of hepatocytes in the different plate formats
    - Further studies with fish hepatocytes should be performed within the temperature range of 10-20 °C (optimum is approx. 15 °C).
14. Plate the cells or perform suspension assays
15. Let the cells attach for at least 6-7 h at 37 °C and 5 % CO_2, do not let the cells attach overnight. **Note:** Let Common Carp Hepatocytes attach overnight at approx. 20 °C. Let Rainbow Trout Hepatocytes attach over approx. 48 h at 15 °C.

Note: Gently shake the plate (N/S-E/W) every 30 minutes for 2 hours after plating (only 24well plate and bigger well). This step has a positive effect on the plateability of most lots.

Tab. 3: Recommended volumes for plating, washing and culture of primary hepatocytes

Volumes per well	**6well**	**12well**	**24well**	**96well**
Plating Medium	2 mL	1 mL	0.5 mL	100 µL
Washing Medium (e. g. PBS)	2 mL	1 mL	0.5 mL	50 µL
Culture Medium	1 mL	0.5 mL	0.3 mL	50 µL

3. Culture of primary hepatocytes

- After attachment of cells: change medium to remove debris and/or dead and non-attached cells.
- Heat culture medium and PBS (optional) to 37 °C (no longer than 15 min); for Common Carp and Rainbow Trout keep medium at RT
- Optional: Wash the cells with warm PBS (1-2 times)
- Replace the plating medium with the necessary culture medium (HHMM, 3D-HMM or FHM)
- PLEASE NOTE: Culture media for mammal and bird hepatocytes (HHMM, and 3D-HMM) are delivered either as ready to use media (HHMM-250, HHMM-500, 3D-HMM-250 or 3D-HMM-500), or as basal media plus supplements (HHMM-500S, 3D-HMM-500S). The supplements have to be added to the basal media in order to have the media ready to use. For preparation of ready-to-use culture medium add 500-1000 µL of the medium to the supplements and add the vial contents to the medium. One vial of supplement S1 and S2 is for 500 mL culture medium. After addition of the supplements the shelf life of the ready to use media is one month.
- Change the medium daily (especially when hepatocytes plated at high cell density)
- Change the medium quickly, do not let the cells dry

FOR IN VITRO RESEARCH USE ONLY. NOT FOR DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES.