

Detection of the beta-galactosidase Reporter Gene in Transfected Eukaryotic Cells

This protocol is for the Detection of the beta-galactosidase Reporter Gene in Transfected Eukaryotic Cells

10X PBS buffer (pH 7.4): 1.37 M NaCl, 0.27 M KCl, 1 M Na₂HPO₄, 0.02 M K₂HPO₄.

Fixation buffer (pH 7.4): 1X PBS buffer and 0.25% glutaraldehyde.

Staining buffer, prepare immediately before use as follows:

Stock solutions	Volume per 10 ml staining buffer	Final concentration
1 M MgCl₂	20 µl	2 mM
0.5 M K₄Fe(CN)₆3H₂O	100 µl	5 mM
0.5 M K₃Fe(CN)₆	100 µl	5 mM
X-Gal Solution, ready-to-use	500 µl	1 mg/ml
10X PBS buffer (pH 7.4)	9.28 ml	diluted 10-fold

Staining procedure:

1. Wash the cells twice with cold 1X PBS buffer. Adhered cells can be washed in the transfection plates, suspension cells should be pelleted before washing.
2. Fix the cells with Fixation buffer for 10 minutes at room temperature while gently rocking the plate. Use 150 µl of the Fixation buffer for each well of a 24-well plate.
3. Wash the cells twice with cold 1X PBS buffer.
4. Stain the cells with freshly prepared Staining buffer for 2-20 hours at 37°C. Use 200 µl of Staining buffer for each well of a 24-well plate.
5. Count dark blue cells.

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