

Laboratory protocol: isolation of rat brain mitochondria

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1. Preparation

Switch on centrifuge and let it cool down to 4 °C. Keep all buffers, dissection gear, homogenization tools and centrifuge rotor at 4 °C (or on ice).

1.1. Anesthesia

Rats are anesthetised by intraperitoneal injection of Thiopental (0.1 g/kg) or by CO₂ narcosis.

1.2. Isolation procedure

1. Kill rat, dissect brain from the skull and place immediately in ice-cold isolation medium A.
2. Determine wet weight.
3. Transfer brain to a pre-cooled glass beaker (20 ml) with ice-cold isolation medium A, discard all medium.
4. Mince the tissue into small pieces using a pair of sharp scissors (tissue should become a mash), add drops of medium while cutting.
5. Suspend with 5 – 10 volumes of ice-cold isolation medium A and transfer to a pre-cooled glass/Teflon potter.
6. Homogenize the tissue with 8 - 10 strokes at 1,000 rpm, add more medium.
7. Transfer to a 50 ml Falcon tube, adjust the volume to get ~ 5% homogenate (1 g tissue per 20 – 30 ml homogenate).
8. Centrifuge at 1,000 *g* for 10 min at 4°C.
9. Transfer the supernatant into new tube and centrifuge at 6,200 *g* for 10 min at 4°C.
10. Discard the supernatant and re-suspend mitochondria (sediment) in 20-30 ml of isolation medium B per g tissue, centrifuge at 6,200 *g* for 10 min at 4°C.
11. Discard the supernatant and re-suspend mitochondria in a small volume of the isolation medium B (the volume of mitochondrial suspension from 1 g tissue ~ 1 ml)

12. Store mitochondria on ice, use within 3-4 h.
13. Transfer 20 μ l into an Eppendorf tube and store at -20°C for further analysis (protein concentration, citrate synthase).

2. Media

2.1. Isolation buffer A

| Chemical | Final conc. | Required for 1,000 ml buffer |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Sucrose | 320 mM | 109.54 g |
| Tris-Cl | 10 mM | 1.211 g |
| K ⁺ EDTA | 1 mM | 0.372 g |
| BSA | 2.5 g/l | 2.5 g |

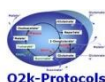
Adjust pH to 7.4 with Tris, HCl

2.2 Isolation buffer B

Isolation buffer A without BSA.

3. References

Sumbalová Z, Kucharská J, Kristek F (2010) Losartan improved respiratory function and coenzyme Q content in brain mitochondria of young spontaneously hypertensive rats. *Cell Mol Neurobiol* 30:751-8. »[Bioblast link](#)«



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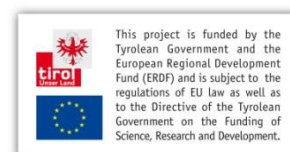
http://wiki.oroboros.at/index.php/O2k-mitochondrial_preparations

Acknowledgements

Sumbalova Z was supported by Action Austria – Slovakia (2015-Feb-01 to Jun 30).

Protocol development supported in part by K-Regio project **MitoFit**.

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This project is funded by the Tyrolean Government and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is subject to the regulations of EU law as well as to the Directive of the Tyrolean Government on the Funding of Science, Research and Development.