Molecular Medicine Ireland

SOP 3.10 Processing of Faeces for DNA extraction

SOP Number: 3.10
Version Number 1.0

	Name	Title	Date
Author			
Authoriser			

Effective Date	
Version Number	

Purpose

This SOP describes the procedure for DNA extraction from faecal cells.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the research laboratory personnel carrying out this procedure to ensure that all steps are completed both competently and safely.

General considerations

- Faecal samples should be collected as fresh as possible within 24 hours of defecation otherwise the DNA will be severely degraded.
- DNA is isolated from the sloughed intestinal cells that line the faeces, therefore it is important that the general shape of the faeces is kept intact.

Equipment/reagent requirements

- DNA extraction buffer
- Proteinase K
- Protein precipitation solution
- Isopropanol
- Ethanol
- DNA hydration buffer
- An incubator/water-bath capable of 30°C
- A centrifuge capable of 3,000g
- Vortex mixer
- A spectrophotometer capable of reading absorbance at 260 and 280nm/Nanodrop

Procedure

1. Resuspend faeces in 20mL DNA extraction buffer (0.1M EDTA, 0.2M NaCl, 0.05M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.5% SDS, 50µg/mL DNAse free RNAse).

2. Add proteinase K to a final concentration of 100µg/mL and gently swirl the beaker to mix the components. Incubate the beaker at 37°C for at least 3 hours, preferably overnight, with gentle agitation. This can be achieved using a shaking water bath or by occasional swirling by hand. The solution should be reasonably clear and viscous at the end of the incubation.

3. Add 3.3mL of ammonium acetate protein precipitation solution and vortex vigorously for 20 sec at high speed.

4. Centrifuge at 3000g for 5 min. The precipitated proteins should form a tight, dark brown pellet. If the protein pellet is not tight, incubate on ice for 5 min and repeat the centrifugation step.

5. Dispense 10mL isopropanol into a clean 50mL centrifuge tube and add the supernatant from the previous step. It is important to ensure that the protein pellet is not dislodged during pouring.

6. Mix by inverting gently 50 times until the DNA is visible as threads or a clump. Centrifuge 3,000g for 5 min. Carefully discard the supernatant. Drain the tube on a clean piece of absorbent paper, taking care that the pellet remains in the tube.

7. Wash the DNA, by adding 10mL of ethanol (70% v/v) and vortex at medium speed for 5 sec to dislodge the pellet from the bottom of the tube. Centrifuge at 3,000g for 5 min and drain to remove ethanol, ensure that the DNA pellet remains in the tube.

8. Add 300µl of DNA hydration buffer (TE buffer) and vortex for 5 sec at medium speed to mix. Incubate at 65°C for 1 hour to dissolve DNA. Incubate at RT overnight with gentle shaking. Ensure tube cap is tightly closed to avoid leakage. Centrifuge samples briefly.

9. The absorbance of the DNA at 260nm and 280nm should be measured using quartz cuvets or the nanodroplet method to assess purity. A 260/280 ratio between 1.8 and 2.0 is desirable. A 260/280 ratio greater than 2.0 may indicate solvent contamination and a ratio less than 1.8 may indicate protein contamination. DNA concentration can be measured using absorbance at 260nm with an A_{260} of 1.0 in a 1-cm light path being

equivalent to a DNA concentration of 50ug/mL / nanodrop. The DNA sample is aliquoted into cooled cryostorage tubes and stored at -80°C

10. An aliquot of the DNA from a representative sample from each batch may be analysed by electrophoresis through a 0.3% agarose gel. The prepared DNA is normally at least 100kbp and preferably exceeds 200kbp.

Note: There are a number of commercially available kits based on the salting out methods from different manufacturers. When using these methods follow the manufacturer's instructions as outlined in the information for use/ package insert included with the kit. The method used for DNA extraction should be recorded in the study specific documentation or data management system.

Change History

SOP Number	Effective Date	Significant Change	Previous SOP No.