

Thesis Title	Methods to Derive Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells From Parthenogenetic Eggs
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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to determine the ability of multiple - factor supplementation to augment derivation of mouse parthenogenetic embryonic stem (m-pES) cells. Three factors, LIF (leukemia inhibitory factor), Parke-Davis 98059 (PD98059) and 6-bromoindirubin-3'-oxime (BIO), were added as supplements (individually or in a combination of all three) at two consecutive stages of culture; that were, from the start of blastocyst culture to the outgrowth stage, and from putting disaggregated outgrowth to generation of primary m-pES colonies, respectively. The main outcome measure was the percentage of derivable m-pES cell lines, based on the number of blastocysts initially cultured. The results showed that (1) a combination of all three factors (LIF+PD98059 +BIO) yielded much higher m-pES cell lines than LIF-only culture (75.82% vs. 20%, respectively). (2) The advantages of a combination of multiple factors were manifested only when they were used during the first stage of the culture and not during the second stage; in other word, in the second stage of culture, multiple factors gave comparable result to that of LIF-only (75.82% vs. 77.40%, respectively). (3) The quality of the inner cell mass (ICM) outgrowth obtained from the first-stage culture was studied. After alkaline-phosphatase and Oct-4 staining, which documented pluripotency of the embryonic stem cells, outgrowths cultured in multiple factors stained much stronger and in higher proportion than those obtained after supplementation only with LIF (70-100% vs. 0-10%, respectively).