NORMAL-DERIVED COLON MUCOSA (NCM460D™)

General Description

The NCM460D™ cell line, which was derived originally as NCM460 from normal human colon mucosal epithelium, has proved useful in multiple intestinal research areas including infectious disease, cell signaling, cytokine production, vitamin transport, gene regulation, protein expression, and phosphorylation in multiple growth regulatory pathways. NCM460D™ cells express colonic epithelial cell associated antigens, such as cytokeratins and villin, but are negative for antigens associated with other cell types, such as neural or endothelial cells. Some of the cells are positive for mucin synthesis, as determined by standard staining methods with specialty stains or antibodies, and the population doubling time is about 32-38 hours. NCM460D™ cells are routinely grown in plastic cell culture monolayer flasks as a mixed monolayer/suspension culture (although monolayer cells predominate, it is important to maintain both cell types). Initial characterization of the derived NCM460D™ cell line showed that it had normal growth features and was not tumorigenic, but over the long time period it has been in culture it has acquired some transformation-associated characteristics.

Source

The epithelial cell line was derived from the normal colon mucosa of a 68-year old Hispanic male (Moyer et al., 1996) and selected for in vitro growth. It was not infected or transfected with any exogenous genetic information.

Re-Animation of Cells from Cryovials

Pre-warm the appropriate volume of medium for culture. To re-animate cryostored cells, use safe handling practices and thaw cryovial(s) rapidly (<5 min) in a 37°C water bath. For maximum viability, the whole process should be completed within 30 minutes. Wipe down outside of vial with 70% ethanol prior to opening. Gently and aseptically transfer cells to 2 mL warmed culture medium in a 15 mL conical centrifuge tube. Add about 4 mL of additional growth medium, pellet the cells by centrifugation, then add 10 mL fresh, complete growth medium and re-suspend the cells. Transfer the cell suspension to a 75-cm² culture flask and incubate at 37°C in 5% CO₂ and air.

Propagation Conditions

Growth media. NCM460D™ cells have fastidious growth requirements and must be maintained in INCELL’s enriched M3:10™ medium (M310A; which is M3 Base medium plus supplements and 10% [v/v] fetal bovine serum [FBS], and contains antibiotics; OR M310F; which is free of antibiotics) for long-term in vitro culture maintenance.

An alternative to purchasing M3:10™ is to supplement M3Base™ with 10% FBS, since M3Base™ contains all the other needed growth supplements. M3Base™ can be purchased with antibiotics (Cat #M300A) or without

1 Initial characterization showed that NCM460 cells did not grow in soft agar and were non-tumorigenic (Moyer et al, 1996). Recent studies primarily done by INCELL collaborators have demonstrated that the NCM460 cell line and selected subpopulations have variable ability to grow in soft agar, display an abnormal karyotype and may be tumorigenic. The exact conditions and cell densities used in these assays are inconsistent between research groups. However, our current interpretation is that as a result of in vitro selection, the cell line expresses a transformed phenotype but retains many functional aspects of normal epithelial colon cells. Individual researchers should assess this information and experimental data for suitability for use in their individual studies or specific applications.

2 SAFETY PRECAUTION: Wear gloves and eye protection when thawing cells. Never put vials into liquid nitrogen in the liquid phase as that will compromise the integrity of the vials and they may explode when thawed.
antibiotics (Cat #M300F), but if used to culture NCM460D™ cells it must be supplemented with high quality, cell culture tested 10% v/v FBS (antibiotics may be optionally added to M300F medium). M3Base™ is recommended for international customers and collaborators because INCELL does not ship FBS-containing media overseas. Media are supplied as 100 mL, 500 mL or as custom packaging (with a 3-4 week lead time).

Other growth conditions. Temperature: 37°C; Gas and environment: 95% air, 5% CO₂; humidified.

**Subculturing**

Do not let the cells overgrow for long periods or the tight clusters of cells in suspension may be difficult to dissociate. The monolayers can be easily subcultured after removal with standard dissociating agents, such as trypsin:EDTA (T:E)³ or similar solutions. Keep the suspension cells and at least 25% of the spent medium (it contains undefined paracrine factors) upon subculturing.

Procedure. Plan the subculturing split ratio to new flasks or plates, etc. and the volume of spent medium to be retained (i.e., at least 25% of the final media volume). Rock the culture flask gently to release weakly adherent cells into the medium. Aseptically remove all of the spent culture medium (it contains cells in suspension) and transfer to a centrifuge tube. Gently pre-rinse the monolayer with a divalent cation-free buffer such as calcium and magnesium free phosphate buffered saline or with an isotonic saline solution. Save the rinses in another centrifuge tube. Pellet the cells in the tubes by centrifugation at 500 x g. Remove and discard 50 to 75% of the spent medium from the first tube and all of the saline from the second tube. Triturate the cell pellet in the spent medium, then transfer to the cell pellet from the rinses, then triturate to re-suspend the pooled cells in the spent medium.

Add 2 ml T:E to the cell monolayer in a 75-cm² flask and incubate at 37°C for 5-10 min. Tap the flask gently to remove the attached cells. Add complete medium to stop the action of the trypsin. Pool and resuspend all of the cells for counting. Counts can be done electronically (unless there is a lot of clumping) or by using a Hemocytometer with a dye exclusion assay such as Trypan blue (e.g., 0.4% dye; 1-2 minutes then count). Transfer the cells to new culture vessels or plates at split ratios that should not exceed 1:4. Seed at a density of 2 to 8 x 10⁵ cells per 10 to 20 mL complete medium volume in a 75-cm² flask (or a similar proportional cell number to surface area or volume ratio). The culture will increase in density over a period several days, with a somewhat slow population doubling time of 32-38 hrs.

**Cryopreservation**

Cells can be cryopreserved in INCELL’s ready-to-use CPZ™ (Cat # MCPZF), or when mixed in a 1:1 ratio of cells in M3:10™ and EZ-CPZ™ medium (Cat # EZCZ). Use standard methods of slow-freeze (controlled rate freezer or isopropanol containers such as “Mr. Freezy”), and a rapid thaw (37°C water bath) for re-animation. The storage temperature should be below -120°C, preferably in the liquid nitrogen vapor phase.

**Biohazard and Infectious Agent Considerations**

All human cells should be handled according to International, NIH and CDC guidelines. This cell line was developed from a patient not positive for any known infectious agents, including HIV or hepatitis viruses, B or C. Although the line has not specifically been tested for other human viruses, it is negative for HIV. Bacterial, fungal and mycoplasma tests are negative.

**Cell Line Distribution**

Cells are licensed by INCELL to investigators with a Cell License Material Transfer Agreement (CLMTA). The form can be requested by email to info@incell.com or by FAX 210-877-0200.

**Publications using INCELL NCM Cell Lines can be found through the www.incell.com Link**

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³ 0.05% trypsin:0.02% disodium ethylene diamine tetracetic acid; final concentrations)