HMEC FAQs

Are HMEC "normal" cells?

Yes. HMEC are isolated from normal, human reduction mammoplasty tissue.

How many passages/population doublings can I expect from HMEC?

HMEC are guaranteed for a minimum of 16 population doublings after thaw.

What are typical doubling times for HMEC?

HMEC usually have population doubling times of 24–30 hr during the guaranteed lifespan.

How does passage number correlate with population doublings?

One passage is equivalent to ~4 population doublings when using the recommended subculture conditions.

Where can I find technical protocols for HMEC?

Procedures for 3D culture, BacMam gene delivery, transfection, as well as with immunocytochemical staining (ICC), can be found at www.invitrogen.com/mammarycells.

What is the difference between M171 and HuMEC growth media?

Both media are designed for culture of HMEC. However, in-house studies show HuMEC Ready Medium (Invitrogen Cat. no. 12752-010) outperforms M171/MEGS (Invitrogen Cat. no. M-171-500/S-015-5) in both growth rate and lifespan measurements of HMEC. There is no difference between media when staining for cell-specific markers using indirect ICC.

How many T-25 flasks can I seed from 1 vial of HMEC?

One vial (500,000 viable cells) can seed eight T-25 flasks at 2,500 viable cells per cm^2. A hemocytometer should be used to accurately count cells and to ensure an appropriate seeding density.

Is it difficult to culture/passage HMEC?

No. HMEC cultures are easily initiated at 2.5×10^3 cells per cm^2 in standard tissue culture plasticware and passaged using a trypsin/EDTA solution.

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