Instructions for Use

For the rapid and sensitive extraction and purification of Plasma Membrane proteins from cultured cells and tissue samples.

This product is for research use only and is not intended for diagnostic use.
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1. Overview

The Membrane Protein Extraction Kit provides optimized buffers and reagents for effective extraction of membrane proteins from mammalian tissues and cells.

Unlike other available procedures that can only extract the total cellular membrane proteins (combinations of plasma and organelle membrane proteins), Abcam’s kit was designed to not only extract the total cellular membrane proteins, but also purify the plasma membrane proteins specifically.

The procedure offers consistent yield and high purity (over 90%). Membrane proteins prepared using the kit can be utilized in a variety of applications, such as Western blotting, 2-D gels, and enzyme analyses, etc. The entire procedure takes less than 1 hour.
2. Protocol Summary

Sample Preparation

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Extraction of Total Cellular Membrane Proteins

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Purification of Plasma Membrane Proteins (Optional)
3. Components and Storage

A. Kit Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homogenize Buffer</td>
<td>50 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Phase Solution</td>
<td>20 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Phase Solution</td>
<td>20 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Lyophilized)</td>
<td>1 vial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Store kit at -20°C. Read the entire protocol before beginning the procedure. Be sure to keep all buffers and reagents on ice at all times during the experiment.

PROTEASE INHIBITOR COCKTAIL: Reconstitute Protease Inhibitor Cocktail by adding 110 μl of DMSO, mix well.

HOMOGENIZE BUFFER MIX: Aliquot enough Homogenize Buffer, add 1/500 volume of the reconstituted Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (e.g., Add 10 μl to 5 ml buffer) to make the Homogenize Buffer Mix.

Note:
Some precipitation may occur after adding the Protease Inhibitor Cocktail. You may continue using the buffer or simply remove the precipitates by centrifugation.
B. Additional Materials Required

- Microcentrifuge
- Pipettes and pipette tips
- Dounce homogeniser
- PBS
- Triton-X-100
4. Assay Protocol

The following protocol is described for extraction of ~5-10 x 10^8 cells. If more cells are used, scale up the volume proportionally.

A. Extraction of Total Cellular Membrane Proteins
1. Collect cells (5-10 x 10^8) by centrifugation at 600 x g for 5 minutes at +4°C.

   For adherent cells, scrape cells in PBS and then spin down (3000 rpm for 5 minutes) to pellet cells.

2. Wash cells once with 1 ml of ice cold PBS.

3. Re-suspend cells in 1 ml of the Homogenize Buffer Mix in an ice-cold Dounce homogenizer. Homogenize cells on ice for 30-50 times.

   For tissue samples, homogenize tissues in 2-3 volume of the 1X Homogenize Buffer, until it is completely lysed (30-50 times).

Note:
Efficient homogenization may depend on the cell type. To check the efficiency of the homogenization, pipette 2-3 μl of the homogenized suspension onto a cover slip and observe under a microscope.

A shiny ring around the nuclei indicates that cells are still intact. If 70-80 percent of the nuclei do not have the shiny ring, proceed to the next step. Otherwise, perform 10-30 additional passes.
4. Transfer the homogenate to a 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube. Centrifuge in 700 x g for 10 minutes at +4°C. Collect supernatant and discard the pellet.

5. Transfer the supernatant to a new vial and centrifuge at 10,000 x g for 30 min at +4°C.

6. Collect supernatant (This is the **Cytosol Fraction**). The pellet is the **total cellular membrane protein** (containing proteins from both plasma membrane and cellular organelle membrane).

**Note:**
You may stop here if you only need the total cellular membrane proteins. If you would like to further isolate the plasma membrane proteins specifically, continue to section B.

**B. Purification of Plasma Membrane Proteins**

1. Re-suspend the total membrane proteins pellet in 200 μl of the Upper Phase Solution. Add 200 μl of the Lower Phase Solution. Mix well and incubate on ice for 5 minutes (Mark the tube as A).

2. Prepare a fresh phase tube without samples. Adding 200 μl of Upper Phase Solution and 200 μl of Lower Phase Solution (Mark the tube as B).

3. Centrifuge both A & B tubes in a microcentrifuge at 3500 rpm (1000 x g) for 5 minutes.
4. Carefully transfer the upper phase from tube A to a new tube (tube C), keep on ice.

5. To maximize the yield, extract the tube A lower phase again by adding 100 μl of the Upper Phase Solution from tube B. Mix well and centrifuge at 3500 rpm (1000 x g) for 5 minutes.

6. Carefully collect the upper phase. Combine with the upper phase from Step 4 (tube C). Extract the combined upper phase by adding 100 μl of the Lower Phase Solution from tube B, Mix well and centrifuge at 3500 rpm (1000 x g) for 5 minutes.

7. Carefully collect the upper phase. Dilute the upper phase in 5 volume of water. Keep on ice for 5 minutes.

8. Spin at top speed at a microcentrifuge tube for 10 minutes at +4°C. Remove the supernatant. The pellet is the plasma membrane protein.

9. Store the plasma membrane proteins at -80°C for further studies. The membrane fraction can be dissolved in 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS or other buffers before use. Generally 10-100 μg plasma membrane proteins can be obtained.
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