

OptiPrep™ Mini-Review MC03

Purification of platelets from whole blood and their removal from blood leukocyte preparations

- ◆ OptiPrep™ is a sterile 60% (w/v) solution of iodixanol in water, density = 1.32 g/ml
- ◆ This Mini-Review principally provides (in Section 2) a bibliography of all those papers reporting the use of OptiPrep™ in the purification of platelets from both human and rodent blood and for their removal from leukocyte preparations. Section 1 briefly summarizes the advantages of using the OptiPrep™ methodology.

1. The OptiPrep™ technology

The routine method for the purification of platelets from whole blood is to centrifuge the blood at a g -force that will sediment the erythrocytes and leukocytes, while leaving the smaller platelets suspended in the plasma supernatant. While this is a simple concept it is technically very difficult; if the g -force is high enough to sediment all of the erythrocytes and leukocytes then many of the platelets will also be in the cell pellet; if it is sufficiently low to prevent the majority of platelets from pelleting then many of less dense leukocytes will also remain in the plasma supernatant. As a result the procedure needs to be repeated several times to recover more of the platelets from the pellet and to remove more leukocytes from the supernatant. It becomes a very tedious process.

In the one-step OptiPrep™ method, OptiPrep™ is diluted with a buffered saline to produce a solution of density 1.063 g/ml (lower than all of the leukocytes); an equal volume of whole blood is layered over it and centrifuged at 350 g for 15 min. The procedure is summarized in Figure 1. Typically 5 ml each of blood and the density barrier are used in a standard 15 ml tube. The separation is based on the much lower sedimentation rate of the platelets. The yields are approx. 90-92%.

The method is equally effective for removing platelets from previously purified leukocyte fractions, particularly human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) produced by centrifugation of blood over a density barrier of approx. 1.077 g/ml (e.g. Lymphoprep™ or Nycoprep™ 1.077). A common method of removing the platelets is to dilute the cell harvest with saline and to use the lowest feasible g -force to pellet the cells selectively (usually about 300-350 g for 5-10 min). This is then repeated at least twice more – like the preparation of platelets by differential centrifugation (see above) this is inefficient, tedious and detrimental to the cells. Instead the platelets can be removed in a single step by layering the diluted harvest over the 1.063 g/ml barrier.

The method is described in OptiPrep™ Application Sheet (C12); it may be accessed from the Index of the “Mammalian and non-mammalian cells” file on the OptiPrep™ Applications flash-drive or from the following following website: www.axis-shield-density-gradient-media.com (click on “Methodology”).

2. Bibliography

- ◆ The references are listed in Section 2a alphabetically by first author; multiple first author papers are listed chronologically.
- ◆ The index in Section 2b lists alphabetically the species and principal area of analysis reported in each paper; the numbers against each entry indicate the relevant reference numbers from Section 2a.

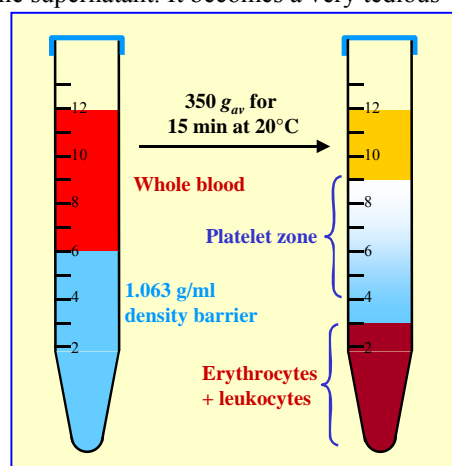


Figure 1: Isolation of platelets from whole human blood. (1) Equal volumes of blood and 1.063 g/ml density barrier layered in tube. (2) After centrifugation at 350 g for 15 min, platelets are harvested from the broad turbid band below the interface

2a. Reference list

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2b. Reference index

Canine platelets

Isolation	42
Removal from dendritic cells	11

Human platelets

Acetylcholinesterase expression	15
Activation	
CD40-L release	33
Pregnancy-related hypertension	05
Retinal vascular repair	13
α_2 -Adrenoreceptors	
Depression, in	41
Aggregation	
Calmodulin-dependent kinase/kinase β signal	36
Vasoactive agents, control of	13, 14
AMP-activated protein kinase	37
Calumenin	
Thrombospondin-1 binding	23
Carbon monoxide	
Serine phosphorylation of VASP	14
Coagulation factor	19
Community-acquired pneumonia	
Antioxidant responses	29
Thrombocytosis	28
Dengue virus haemorrhagic fever	
Thrombocytopenia	34
Virus receptors on platelet surface	34
Diabetic patients	
Serine phosphorylation of VASP	14
Factor VIII	
Binding studies	22, 40
C1 domain amino acid residues, effects of	30
Guanyl cyclase/cGMP signaling	
Von Willebrand factor/ristocetin mediated	21
HPA-1a antigen	
Effects on T-cells	01
ILK-PINCH-Parvin complex signaling	10
Imidazoline receptors	
Depression, in	41
Metabolic syndrome	33
Methodology	
CD41 determined purity	04
Non-activated	03
Morphological retention	04
Nitric oxide	
Serine phosphorylation of VASP	14
Synthase (endothelial and inducible)	21
Removal from	
Dendritic cells	38
Monocytes	12, 31, 32
Peripheral blood cells	02, 09, 25, 26, 27, 39
Retinal vascular repair	
Platelet aggregation	13
Serine residue, differential phosphorylation of	

Vasodilator-stimulated phosphoprotein (VASP)	14
α -Synuclein	
Paucity in platelets	08
Thrombin stimulation	
Calumenin release	23
Thrombocytopenia	
Dengue virus haemorrhagic fever	34
Neonatal alloimmune	01
Primate bone marrow	
Dengue virus	35
Rodent platelets	
Aggregation	
Acetylcholinesterase elimination	16
Carbon monoxide, reduction in allografts	17
Wound lesion treatments	18
Platelet depletion	24
Platelet destruction <i>in vivo</i>	06
Platelet survival	20
Thrombocytopenia model	07

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