

Data Sheet

CytoSoft® T-25 Flasks

CC330-CC336

Pack Size: 10 T-25 Flasks

Store at Room Temperature

FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY**Not for use in diagnostic procedures. Not for Human or Animal Consumption**

Background

The rigidity of the substrate to which cells adhere can have a profound effect on cell morphology and gene expression. CytoSoft® products provide a tool to culture cells on substrates with various rigidities covering a broad physiological range. On the bottom of each flask, there is a thin layer of specially formulated biocompatible silicone, whose elastic modulus (rigidity) is carefully measured and certified. The surfaces of the gels in CytoSoft® products are functionalized to form covalent bonds with amines on proteins. This chemical functionalization is stable, and the reaction does not require a catalyst, facilitating the coating of the gel surfaces with matrix proteins and plating cells. The silicone substrates of CytoSoft® products are optically clear and have a low auto-fluorescence. The layer of silicone in each flask is firmly bonded to the bottom of the flask. Unlike hydrogels (such as polyacrylamide gels), silicone gels are not susceptible to hydrolysis, do not dry nor swell, are resilient and resistant to tearing or cracking, and their elastic moduli (rigidities) remain nearly unchanged during extended storage periods. CytoSoft® products accommodate the harvesting of cells using enzymes such as trypsin and collagenase. There is no biochemical breakdown of the substrate during or after enzyme treatment, and there are no residuals of the substrate in the sample retrieved.

CytoSoft® T-25 flasks have a defined elastic modulus in the bottom of a standard T-25 flask for cell expansion applications. The thickness of the silicone gel is uniform with a ~0.5 mm thick layer of silicone in each flask that is fully compatible with mammalian cell cultures. The silicone gels are activated and ready to bind to a purified ECM, such as PureCol® type I collagen (5005) prior to cell addition. The plates are packaged sterilized and provided with 10 flasks per package.

Quality Control Testing

Sterility	Ozone
Cell Attachment	Tested
Cell Growth	Tested
Young's elastic modulus	
CC330	0.1-0.3 kPa
CC331	0.1-0.3 kPa
CC332	1.0-3.0 kPa
CC333	5.0-11.0 kPa
CC334	12.0-20.0 kPa
CC335	26.0-38.0 kPa
CC336	52.0-74. kPa

Storage and Handling

Store CytoSoft® Flasks at room temperature.

Representative Data

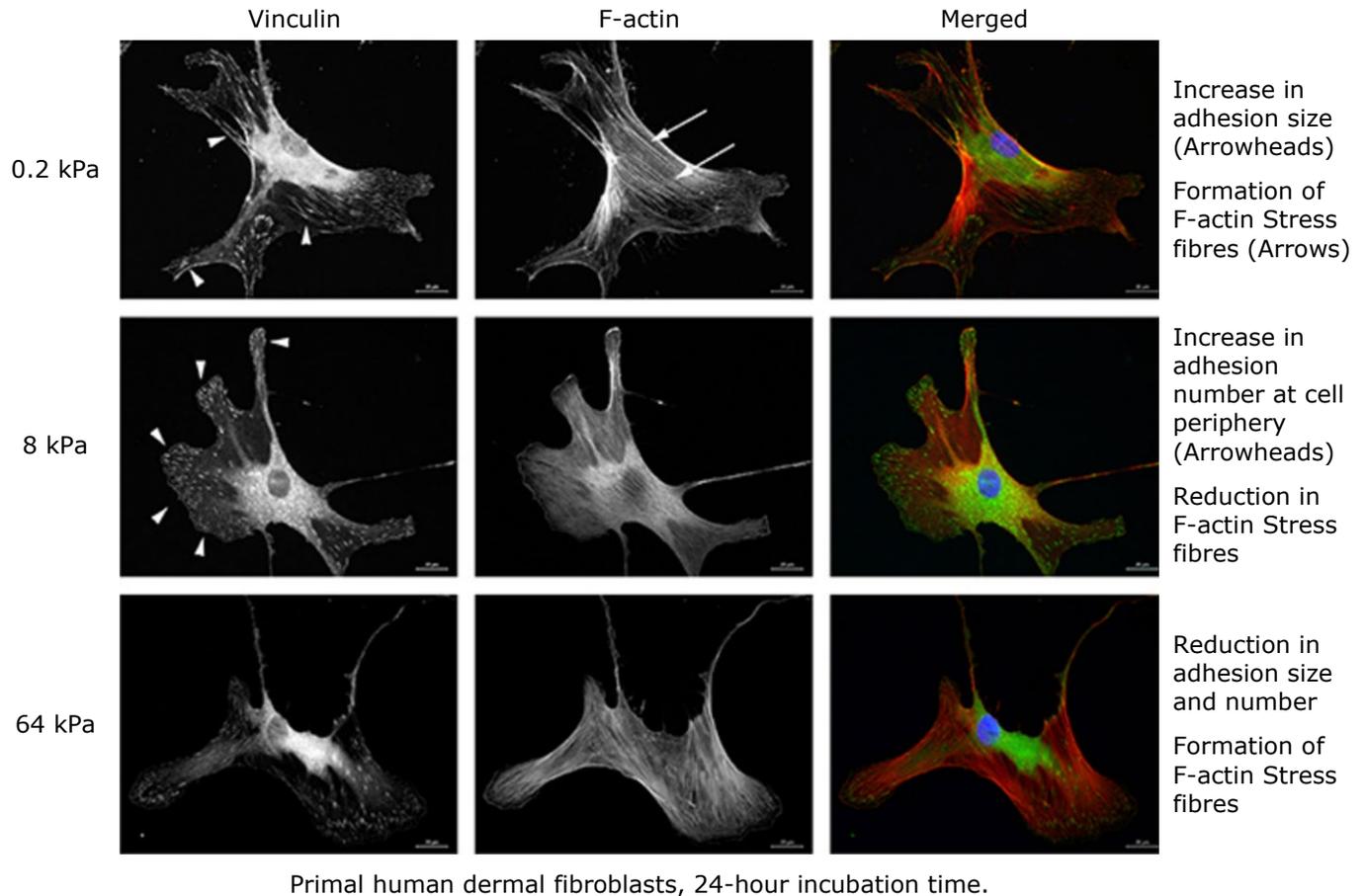


Figure 1. CytoSoft® plates can be used to show how fibroblasts are able to discriminate between the underlying stiffness. Varying substrate stiffness alters both adhesion and stress fibers. Fibroblasts cultured on 8 kPa stiffness have reduced intracellular tension and increased adhesion.

Protocols

Coating Protocol

Use these recommendations as guidelines to determine the optimal coating conditions for your culture system. The bottom of the plate can be detached by excessive mechanical force such as centrifugation or direct contact with liquid handling tools (tips, pipettes, etc.).

1. Remove the CytoSoft® product from the protective sleeve in a sterile hood.
2. Prepare extracellular matrix material by neutralizing in amine-free buffer pH 7.4 to 7.9 (such as 1X DPBS). We do not recommend using gelatin as your ECM protein. Note: Pre-warm the coating solution to approximately room temperature before use.
3. Dilute as needed and dispense 1 mL of solution into each well to coat the surface.
Note: Recommended dilution for PureCol® Type I collagen is 1:30 (~100 µg/ml). Note: The hydrophobic surface requires larger volumes to cover the surface than do conventional plastic dishes.
4. Incubate ECM coated CytoSoft® at room temperature, covered for 1 hour.
5. After incubation, aspirate any remaining material and rinse coated surfaces immediately two times with culture medium or PBS. Leave about 2.5 mL of medium per well to keep surface covered.
Note: Do not allow the CytoSoft® surface to become dry once the surface has been wetted.
6. Coated surfaces are ready for use. Standard harvesting procedures used for removing cells from cultureware can be employed for harvesting cells from the CytoSoft® product including use of trypsin, Accutase® and non-enzymatic cell detachment solutions.

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Document Template 20306518 Ver 6.0

00069846 Ver 1.0, Rev 01APR2023, NJA/AB

