

Fast-Track protocol for DLCL tissue samples

I. Homogenization (Day 1)

Set water bath to 45 C.

1. Prepare tissue homogenizer. Clean generator with RNaseAway, then rinse with DDW, EtOH, and DDW. Dry with a Kimwipe.
2. Check Stock Buffer for SDS ppt; heat or microwave to dissolve. Add 300 μ L RNase/Protein Degradant to each 15 mL of Stock Buffer (2 mL per 100 mL). For each sample, place 15+ mL into a 50 mL conical tube.
3. Process frozen samples one at a time. Divide the frozen sample into pieces <5 mm across, using a razor blade and minimal thawing, and drop into Lysis Buffer.
4. Homogenize sample. Hold tube so that generator tip is just above sample pieces at bottom of tube. Start rotation, and allow vortex to draw pieces into generator tip. Vortex until completely homogenized, although there may be some fragments of fascia. Minimize bubble formation.
5. Set homogenized samples aside until all are processed. Clean generator tip between samples by rinsing sequentially with DDW, 100% EtOH, and DDW for a final time. Dry with a Kimwipe.

II. mRNA isolation (Day 1 continued)

1. Place homogenates in 45 C. water bath for 30-45 min. If insoluble material persists, centrifuge at 4,000 x g for 5 min at RT and transfer the supernatant to a new tube.
2. Adjust NaCl concentration to 0.5 M by adding 950 μ L of 5 M NaCl to each 15 mL lysate. Mix by vortexing.
3. Shear remaining DNA in lysate 3-4X with an 18-21 Ga needle. If lysate is still too viscous, add 15 mL more Lysis Buffer mix and treat as 2 samples.
4. To each 15 mL lysate, add a vial of oligo(dT) cellulose. Mix by gentle vortexing. Oligo(dT) cellulose is hygroscopic, and should be stored at -20 C.
5. Rock lysates for 1.5 hr-ON at RT.

III. Washing oligo(dT) cellulose (Day 2)

Warm Elution Buffer to 55 C, in preparation for IV below.

1. Pellet the oligo(dT) cellulose at 3,000 x g for 5 min at RT. Transfer the supernatants carefully to new tubes for DNA recovery (see V below; convenient to do during steps 2-5 below).
Note: During steps 1-5, oligo(dT) cellulose will become increasingly better packed after spinning (as well as easier to resuspend). Therefore, the removal of supernatants should be gentle at first, so as to avoid losing oligo(dT) cellulose, but can become more complete at later steps.
2. Gently resuspend each pellet in 20 mL of Binding Buffer. Pellet the oligo(dT) cellulose at 3,000 x g for 5 min at RT. Discard supernatants.
3. Repeat step 2, using 10 mL of Binding Buffer.
4. Repeat step 2, using 10 mL of Low Salt Wash Buffer.
5. Repeat step 4 for 2-4X, until supernatant is free of bubbles.
6. Place 50 mL tubes into a rack or holder. Place spin columns into labeled Eppendorf tubes and place tubes in a microfuge, with the lids open.
7. Transfer cellulose to spin columns in the following manner, paying careful attention to detail. Add 400 μ L of Low Salt Wash Buffer to each pellet-containing 50 mL tube. Resuspend pellet into a slurry by tilting and swirling the tube with one hand, and at the same time aspirate the slurry with a 2 mL pipet. You may need to repeat, or pipet up and down, to minimize leaving cellulose in the tube or pipet. Gently express the slurry,

which may contain bubbles, into the top of a spin-column in a microfuge tube. Don't worry if you have not transferred all cellulose, or there is a plug left in the pipet, but save the pipet and the 50 mL tube! Place each pipet back in the same 50 mL tube for step 9. If it appears that there is too much slurry to close the Eppendorf tube lid, try to disrupt bubbles and/or let the slurry settle; you can then close the tube lid, and any liquid that spills will contain little suspended cellulose.

8. Spin Eppendorf tubes at 7500 rpm for 30 sec at RT. Remove spin-column, discard eluate from the tube, and restore spin-column to the tube and the tube to the microfuge.
9. Add 600 μ L of Low Salt Wash Buffer to the 50 mL tube. Using the same pipet and swirling, draw up dilute slurry and mobilize any cellulose left in the pipet. Express slurry to top of spin-column. Spin again.
10. Optional: Discard eluate, and wash cellulose once more with 500 μ L Low Salt Wash Buffer.

IV. Elution and precipitation of the mRNA

Day 2, continued

1. Transfer spin-columns to new microfuge tubes in kit. Discard old tubes and eluate. With a yellow pipet tip, add 200 μ L of 55 C Elution Buffer to tops of spin-columns. Use the pipet tip as a mixer to ensure even distribution of Elution Buffer over the surface of the cellulose.
2. Centrifuge for 30 sec to elute mRNA, and leave eluate in the microfuge tube. **DO NOT DISCARD ELUATE!** Add a second 200 μ L of 55 C Elution Buffer to tops of spin-columns, mix with cellulose, and spin again.
3. Discard the spin-column. To the eluate (400 μ L), add 0.15 volume (60 μ L) of 2 M NaOAc and 2.5 volumes (1 mL) of 100% EtOH. Mix and place at -80 C. and leave ON or longer.

Day 3

4. Thaw eluates and microfuge at maximum speed for 30 min at 4 C.
5. Remove supernatant by careful aspiration. Air dry briefly (5-10 min) at RT. Resuspend pellet (sometimes visible, but not always) in 20-50 μ L of Elution Buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 7.5). For now, use 22 μ L and aliquot as follows:
 - 2 aliquots of 10 μ L each, for chip analysis.
 - 1 μ L for later SMART amplification.
 - 1 μ L for immediate gel analysis. Run on a 1% TAE/EtBr gel, with 1 Kb ladder. Also use Jurkat mRNA from Ash, 1 μ L as is and diluted 1:10. Photograph with IP Lab program.

V. DNA recovery from Fast-Track lysate (approximately 15 mL)

1. Add 3.5 mL of saturated NaCl. Shake vigorously for 30 sec, then spin at 2500 x g for 5 min at RT to precipitate proteins.
2. Transfer supernatant to another 50 mL tube, and discard pellet. Will probably need to spin and transfer again, to avoid transfer of some particulate. When supernatant is clear, measure the volume. Add 2 volumes of 100% EtOH, and record whether a visible spool of DNA is formed. Leave at -20 C. ON to precipitate further. Can store in EtOH -20 C indefinitely.
3. Spin at 2500 x g for 10 min at 4 C to precipitate DNA. Wash carefully with 70% EtOH, then air dry briefly.
4. Resuspend in a minimum volume of TE, e.g. 1 mL. If needed, rock centrifugally at 4 C. Store at -20 C.