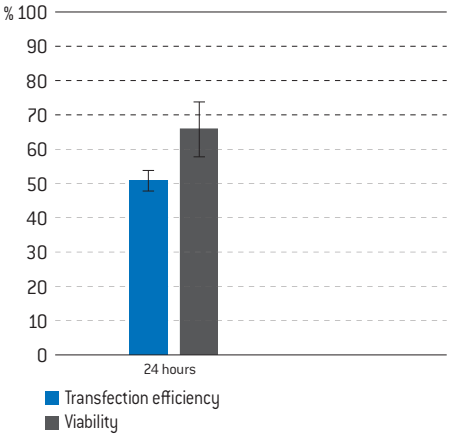
BioResearch

Lonza

Amaxa™ 4D-Nucleofector™ Protocol for Human Mammary Epithelial Cells (HMEC)

For 4D-Nucleofector™ X Unit—Transfection in suspension

Validated to work with Clonetics™ HMEC [Lonza; Cat. No. CC-2551]; adherent epithelial cells



Example for Nucleofection™ of HMEC

Transfection efficiency of HMEC 24 hours post Nucleofection™. 1 x 10^5 cells were transfected with 96-well Shuttle™ Program EL-110 and 1 µg pmaxGFP™ Vector in 20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strips. 24 hours post Nucleofection™ cells were analyzed on a FACSCalibur™ [Becton Dickinson].

Product Description

Recommended Kit(s)—P3 Primary Cell 4D-Nucleofector™ X Kit

Cat. No.	V4XP-3012	V4XP-3024	V4XP-3032
Transfection volume	100 µl	100 µl	20 µl
Size [reaction]	2 x 6	24	2 x 16
Nucleofector™ Solution	2 x 0.675 ml (0.492 ml + 27 % overfill)	2.25 ml (1.968 ml + 13 % overfill)	0.675 ml (0.525 ml + 22 % overfill)
Supplement	2 x 0.15 ml (0.108 ml + 27 % overfill)	0.5 ml (0.432 ml + 13 % overfill)	0.15 ml (0.115 ml + 22 % overfill)
pmaxGFP™ Vector (1 µg/µl in 10 mM Tris pH 8.0)	50 µg	50 µg	50 µg
Single Nucleocuvette™ (100 µl)	12	24	-
16-well Nucleocuvette™ Strips (20 µl)	-	-	2

Storage and stability

Store Nucleofector™ Solution, Supplement and pmaxGFP™ Vector at 4 °C. For long-term storage, pmaxGFP™ Vector is ideally stored at -20 °C. The expiration date is printed on the solution box. Once the Nucleofector™ Supplement is added to the Nucleofector™ Solution, it is stable for three months at 4 °C.

Note

4D-Nucleofector™ Solutions can only be used with Nucleovettes™ (conductive polymer cuvettes), i.e. in the 4D-Nucleofector™ System and the 96-well Shuttle™ Device. They are not compatible with the Nucleofector™ II/2b Device.

Required Material

Note
Please make sure that the entire supplement is added to the Nucleofector™ Solution. The ratio of Nucleofector™ Solution to supplement is 4.5 : 1 (see table 1)

- 4D-Nucleofector™ System (4D-Nucleofector™ Core Unit and 4D-Nucleofector™ X Unit)
- Supplemented 4D-Nucleofector™ Solution at room temperature
- Supplied 100 µl single Nucleocuvette™ or 20 µl 16-well Nucleocuvette™ Strips
- **Compatible tips for 20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strips:** epT.I.P.S. (US/CDN: Eppendorf North America, Cat. No. 2491.431, Rest of World: Eppendorf AG, Cat. No. 0030073.266), Matrix TallTips® (Matrix Technologies Corp., Cat. No. 7281) or LTS Tips (Rainin Instruments, LLC, Cat. No. SR-L10F, SR/SS-L250S, SR/SS-L300S). Before using other types of pipette tips, please ensure they reach the bottom of the Nucleocuvette™ Wells without getting stuck
- **Supplied pmaxGFP™ Vector, stock solution 1µg/µl**

Note
For positive control using pmaxGFP™, dilute the stock solution to an appropriate working concentration. Further details are provided in table 3 of this Optimized Protocol. The volume of substrate solution added to each sample should not exceed 10% of the total reaction volume (2 µl for 20 µl reactions; 10 µl for 100 µl reactions).

- Substrate of interest, highly purified, preferably by using endotoxin-free kits; A260 : A280 ratio should be at least 1.8
- Cell culture plates of your choice
- **For detaching cells:** Reagent Pack™ Subculture Reagent Kit containing Trypsin/EDTA, HEPES Buffered Saline Solution (HBSS) and Trypsin Neutralizing Solution (TNS) [Lonza, Cat. No. CC-5034]
- **Culture medium:** MEGM™ BulletKit™ [Lonza; Cat. No. CC-3150]. We recommend storing 40 ml aliquots of the prepared medium at -80 °C. Do not use medium stored at 4 °C for more than two days, as this may lead to reduced cell viability and transfection efficiency
- Prewarm appropriate volume of culture medium to 37 °C (see table 2)
- Appropriate number of cells/sample (see table 2)

1. Pre Nucleofection™

Note
Transfection results may be donor-dependent.

Cell culture recommendations

1.1 Thaw cells and transfect them into culture medium
1.2 Seeding conditions: 2.5 x 10^3 cells/cm^2. Use flasks with a surface area of 75cm^2 only. High cell densities in HMEC culture lead to increased cell mortality and reduced transfection efficiency. This could not be compensated by low density culturing afterwards
1.3 Cells should be passaged every 2–3 days
1.4 For Nucleofection™ cells should be preferably passaged 2 days before
1.5 Do not use cells after passage number 14 as this may result in substantially lower gene transfer efficiency and viability

Trypsinization

1.6 Remove media from the cultured cells and wash cells once with HBSS; use at least same volume of HBSS as culture media
1.7 For harvesting, incubate the cells ~5 minutes at 37 °C with recommended volume of indicated trypsinization reagent (please see required material)
1.8 Neutralize trypsinization reaction with TNS once the majority of the cells (>90 %) have been detached (not later than after 7 minutes as otherwise cells may start to clump)

2. Nucleofection™

For Nucleofection™ Sample contents and recommended Nucleofector™ Program, please refer to Table 3.

2.1 Please make sure that the entire supplement is added to the Nucleofector™ Solution
2.2 Start 4D-Nucleofector™ System and create or upload experimental parameter file (for details see device manual)
2.3 Select/Check for the appropriate Nucleofector™ Program (see table 3)
2.4 Prepare cell culture plates by filling appropriate number of wells with desired volume of recommended culture media (see table 4) and pre-incubate/equilibrate plates in a humidified 37 °C/5 % CO_2 incubator
2.5 Pre-warm an aliquot of culture medium to 37 °C (see table 4)
2.6 Prepare plasmid DNA or pmaxGFP™ Vector or siRNA (see table 3)
2.7 Harvest the cells by trypsinization (please see 1.6–1.8)
2.8 Count an aliquot of the cells and determine cell density
2.9 Centrifuge the required number of cells (see table 3) at 200xg for 6 minutes at room temperature. Remove supernatant completely
2.10 Resuspend the cell pellet carefully in room temperature 4D- Nucleofector™ Solution (see table 3)

2.11 Prepare mastermixes by dividing cell suspension according to number of substrates
2.12 Add required amount of substrates to each aliquot (max. 10 % of final sample volume)
2.13 Transfer mastermixes into the Nucleocuvette™ Vessels

Note
As leaving cells in Nucleofector™ Solution for extended periods of time may lead to reduced transfection efficiency and viability it is important to work as quickly as possible. Avoid air bubbles while pipetting.

2.14 Gently tap the Nucleocuvette™ Vessels to make sure the sample covers the bottom of the cuvette
2.15 Place Nucleocuvette™ Vessel with closed lid into the retainer of the 4D-Nucleofector™ X Unit. Check for proper orientation of the Nucleocuvette™ Vessel
2.16 Start Nucleofection™ Process by pressing the "Start" on the display of the 4D-Nucleofector™ Core Unit (for details, please refer to the device manual)
2.17 After run completion, carefully remove the Nucleocuvette™ Vessel from the retainer
2.18 Incubate Nucleocuvette™ 10 minutes at room temperature
2.19 Resuspend cells with pre-warmed medium (for recommended volumes see table 5). Mix cells by gently pipetting up and down two to three times. When working with the 100 µl Nucleocuvette™ use the supplied pipettes and avoid repeated aspiration of the sample
2.20 Plate desired amount of cells in culture system of your choice (for recommended volumes see table 5)

3. Post Nucleofection™

3.1 Incubate the cells in humidified 37 °C/5 % CO_2 incubator until analysis. Gene expression or down regulation, respectively, is often detectable after only 4–8 hours

Additional Information

For an up-to-date list of all Nucleofector™ References, please refer to:
www.lonza.com/nucleofection-citations

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Table 1: Volumes required for a single reaction

	100 µl Single Nucleocuvette™	20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strip
Volume of Nucleofector™ Solution	82 µl	16.4 µl
Volume of Supplement	18 µl	3.6 µl

Table 2: Required amounts of cells and media for Nucleofection™

	100 µl Single Nucleocuvette™	20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strip
Culture medium per sample post Nucleofection™ (for transfer and culture)	2 ml	230 µl
Cell number per Nucleofection™ Sample	0.5 x 10^6 cells (Minimal cell number: 5 x 10^4 cells, at lower cell numbers viability might decrease; maximal cell number: 1 x 10^6 cells)	1 x 10^5 cells (Lower or higher cell numbers may influence transfection results)

Table 3: Contents of one Nucleofection™ Sample and recommended program

		100 µl Single Nucleocuvette™	20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strip
Cells		0.5 x 10^6	1 x 10^5
Substrate*	**pmaxGFP™ Vector**	2 µg	1 µg
or	**plasmid DNA (in H_2O or TE)**	1–5 µg	0.4–1 µg
or	**siRNA**	30–300nM siRNA (3–30 pmol/sample)	30–300nM siRNA (0.6–6 pmol/sample)
P3 Primary Cell 4D-Nucleofector™ Solution		100 µl	20 µl
Program		EL-110	EL-110

* Volume of substrate should comprise maximum 10 % of total reaction volume

Table 4: Culture volumes required for post Nucleofection™ Steps

	100 µl Single Nucleocuvette™	20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strip*
6-well culture plate	1.5 ml	-
96-well culture plate	-	150 µl
Culture medium to be added to the sample post Nucleofection™	500 µl	80 µl

* Maximum cuvette volume 200 µl

Table 5: Recommended volumes for sample transfer into culture plate

	100 µl Single Nucleocuvette™	20 µl Nucleocuvette™ Strip*
Culture medium to be added to the sample post Nucleofection™	500 µl	80 µl
Volume of sample transferred to culture plate	complete sample (use supplied pipettes)	50 µl

* Maximum cuvette volume 200 µl