RLE-6TN

305350

GENERAL INFORMATION

Description

The RLE-6TN cell line is an immortalized rat alveolar type II epithelial cell line derived from adult Fischer 344 rats. RLE-6TN was established through spontaneous immortalization during attempts to introduce the SV40-T antigen gene into primary alveolar type II epithelial cells. Unlike its counterpart RLE-6T, which was positively transfected with the SV40-T antigen, RLE-6TN cells do not express the T-antigen gene. Despite this, RLE-6TN cells retain critical morphological and functional features characteristic of alveolar type II cells, including cytokeratin expression and the presence of lipid-containing lamellar inclusion bodies.
RLE-6TN cells have been widely used as an in vitro model for investigating lung epithelial cell biology, alveolar function, and responses to various physiological and pathological stimuli. They are particularly relevant for studying Na-K-ATPase regulation and activity in alveolar epithelial cells. Na-K-ATPase is essential for maintaining cellular ion gradients and trans-epithelial ion transport, processes critical for alveolar fluid clearance in the lungs. In studies, thyroid hormone (T3) has been shown to stimulate Na-K-ATPase activity in RLE-6TN cells by enhancing its translocation to the plasma membrane rather than increasing its transcription, highlighting a novel, rapid regulatory mechanism.
RLE-6TN cells demonstrate stable growth, with near-diploid karyotype stability, and are not tumorigenic in nude mice. They are negative for alkaline phosphatase activity but stain positive for cytokeratins 8, 18, and 19, confirming their epithelial origin. RLE-6TN cells can be maintained long-term in culture and serve as a reliable platform for mechanistic studies on alveolar epithelial repair, surfactant metabolism, and cellular responses to lung injury, toxins, and therapeutic agents.

Tissue	Lung

Synonyms

- Rat Lung Epithelial-6-T-antigen Negative

CLASSIFICATION

Organism	Rat
Sex	Male
Growth properties	Adherent
Biosafety level	1

CHARACTERISTICS

Morphology	Epithelial
Tumourigenic	No, No not tumorgenic in nude mice

Karyotype

Cells are reported to remain near diploid and karyotypically stable from passage 19-70 with 50% or more of the cells containing 42 chromosomes. At passage 37, there was a translocation between chromosome 1 and 15 which results in trisomy of the q arm of chromosome 1.

IDENTIFIERS

Citation

RLE-6TN (Cytion catalog number 305350)

NCBI TaxID	10116
Cellosaurus	CVCL_4693

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EXPRESSION AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

Antigen expression

Cytokeratin 8; cytokeratin 19

Viruses

SV40

HANDLING AND CULTURE

Culture medium

DMEM:Ham's F12 (1:1), w: 3.1 g/L Glucose, w: 2.5 mM L-Glutamine, w: 15 mM HEPES, w: 0.5 mM Sodium pyruvate, w: 1.2 g/L NaHCO3 (Cytion article number 820400a)

Incubation atmosphere	37°C, 5% CO_2, humidified atmosphere.

Supplements

Supplement the medium with 5% FBS

Dissociation reagent	Accutase
Fluid renewal	2 to 3 times per week

Thawing and culturing

Confirm that the vial remains deeply frozen upon delivery, as cells are shipped on dry ice to maintain optimal temperatures during transit. Upon receipt, either store the cryovial immediately at temperatures below -150°C to ensure the preservation of cellular integrity, or proceed to step 3 if immediate culturing is required.
For immediate culturing, swiftly thaw the vial by immersing it in a 37°C water bath with clean water and an antimicrobial agent, agitating gently for 40-60 seconds until a small ice clump remains.
Perform all subsequent steps under sterile conditions in a flow hood, disinfecting the cryovial with 70% ethanol before opening.
Carefully open the disinfected vial and transfer the cell suspension into a 15 ml centrifuge tube containing 8 ml of room-temperature culture medium, mixing gently.
Centrifuge the mixture at 300 x g for 3 minutes to separate the cells and carefully discard the supernatant containing residual freezing medium.
Gently resuspend the cell pellet in 10 ml of fresh culture medium. For adherent cells, divide the suspension between two T25 culture flasks; for suspension cultures, transfer all the medium into one T25 flask to promote effective cell interaction and growth.
Adhere to established subculture protocols for continued growth and maintenance of the cell line, ensuring reliable experimental outcomes.

QUALITY CONTROL AND CRYOPRESERVATION

Sterility

Mycoplasma contamination is excluded using both PCR-based assays and luminescence-based mycoplasma detection methods.
To ensure there is no bacterial, fungal, or yeast contamination, cell cultures are subjected to daily visual inspections.

Freeze medium	As a cryopreservation medium, we use complete growth medium (including FBS) + 10% DMSO for adequate post-thaw viability, or CM-1 (Cytion catalog number 800100), which includes optimized osmoprotectants and metabolic stabilizers to enhance recovery and reduce cryo-induced stress.

Storage conditions

For long-term preservation, place vials in vapor-phase liquid nitrogen at about −150 to −196 °C. Storage at −80 °C is acceptable only as a short interim step before transfer to liquid nitrogen.

Shipping conditions

Cryopreserved cell lines are shipped on dry ice in validated, insulated packaging with sufficient refrigerant to maintain approximately −78 °C throughout transit. On receipt, inspect the container immediately and transfer vials without delay to appropriate storage.

DONOR

Donor age	56 days

LEGAL AND SAFETY

Safety precautions

When planning to store a cryovial in liquid nitrogen for future thawing, it is mandatory to adhere to stringent safety measures. Appropriate protective gloves and clothing are essential, and the use of a face mask or safety goggles is required during the transfer of frozen samples to or from the liquid nitrogen tank. This is to mitigate the risk of injury from potential cryovial explosions upon removal, which can result in the projection of sharp fragments.

Warranty

At Cytion, we stand behind the quality and viability of our products.
We guarantee that our cells will be viable at the start of culture for
60 days after shipment from our facilities.
We assure that all materials conform to the specifications described in the
Certificate of Analysis and/or Product Sheet.
For full details, please refer to our
Warranty Statement.

Material Transfer Agreement required	Yes

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