NCI-H1048

305595

GENERAL INFORMATION

Description

NCI-H1048 is a human small cell lung carcinoma (SCLC) cell line derived from a lung tumor in an adult patient and is widely used as a model of neuroendocrine lung cancer. Small cell lung carcinoma is characterized by rapid growth, early metastatic spread, and strong association with neuroendocrine differentiation, and NCI-H1048 reflects many of these features. The cells typically grow in suspension or as loosely adherent clusters and display morphology consistent with SCLC, including small, round cells with high nuclear-to-cytoplasmic ratios.
At the molecular level, NCI-H1048 exhibits features characteristic of SCLC, including alterations in key tumor suppressor pathways such as TP53 and RB1, which are commonly inactivated in this disease. The cell line expresses neuroendocrine markers, including proteins associated with hormone secretion and neuronal differentiation, making it a relevant model for studying neuroendocrine signaling and tumor biology. Like other SCLC models, it may also display amplification or overexpression of oncogenic drivers involved in proliferation and survival, contributing to its aggressive phenotype.
NCI-H1048 is used in research focused on small cell lung cancer pathogenesis, drug sensitivity, and resistance mechanisms. It is particularly valuable for evaluating chemotherapeutic agents and targeted therapies in a disease context known for initial treatment responsiveness followed by rapid relapse. The cell line is also used in studies of tumor cell plasticity, neuroendocrine differentiation, and high-throughput drug screening. However, as with many SCLC models, detailed mutation-specific profiles may vary between datasets, and additional molecular characterization is recommended for experiments requiring precise genomic information.

Tissue	Lung
Disease	Small cell carcinoma
Metastatic site	Pleural effusion

Synonyms

- H1048
- H-1048
- NCIH1048

CLASSIFICATION

Organism	Human
Sex	Female
Growth properties	Adherent
Biosafety level	1

CHARACTERISTICS

Morphology	Epithelial-like
MSI status	Instable (MSI high)

IDENTIFIERS

Citation

NCI-H1048 (Cytion catalog number 305595)

NCBI TaxID	9606

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Cellosaurus	CVCL_1453

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, 0.005 mg/mL Insulin, 0.01 mg/mL Transferrin, 30nM Sodium selenite, 10 nM Hydrocortisone, 10 nM beta-estradiol

Dissociation reagent	Accutase

Subculturing

Remove the old medium from the adherent cells and wash them with PBS that lacks calcium and magnesium. For T25 flasks, use 3-5 ml of PBS, and for T75 flasks, use 5-10 ml. Then, cover the cells completely with TrypLE Express, using 1-2 ml for T25 flasks and 2.5 ml for T75 flasks. Let the cells incubate at room temperature for 8-10 minutes to detach them. After incubation, gently mix the cells with 10 ml of medium to resuspend them, then centrifuge at 300xg for 3 minutes. Discard the supernatant, resuspend the cells in fresh medium, and transfer them into new flasks that already contain fresh medium.

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.
Medium
HITES medium supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum: The base medium for this cell line is DMEM:F12 Medium
(Catalog No. 820400a). To make the complete growth medium, add the following components to the base medium:
0.005 mg/ml Insulin
0.01 mg/ml Transferrin
30 nM Sodium selenite (final conc.)
10 nM Hydrocortisone (final conc.)
10 nM beta-estradiol (final conc.)
extra 2 mM L-glutamine (for final conc. of 4.5 mM)
5% fetal bovine serum (final conc.)
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	53 years
Ethnicity	African American

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