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Warnings

Reagents contain sodium azide. Under acidic conditions sodium azide yields hydrazoic acid, which is extremely toxic. Azide compounds should be diluted with running water before discarding. These precautions are recommended to avoid deposits in plumbing where explosive conditions may develop.

1. Description

This product is for research use only.

Components	2 mL CD56 MicroBeads, human: MicroBeads conjugated to monoclonal anti-human CD56 antibodies (isotype: mouse IgG1).
Capacity	For 10^9 total cells, up to 100 separations.
Product format	CD56 MicroBeads are supplied as a suspension containing stabilizer and 0.05% sodium azide.
Storage	Store protected from light at 2–8 °C. Do not freeze. The expiration date is indicated on the vial label.

1.1 Principle of the MACS® Separation

First, the CD56⁺ cells are magnetically labeled with CD56 MicroBeads. Then, the cell suspension is loaded onto a MACS® Column which is placed in the magnetic field of a MACS Separator. The magnetically labeled CD56⁺ cells are retained within the column. The unlabeled cells run through; this cell fraction is thus depleted of CD56⁺ cells. After removing the column from the magnetic field, the magnetically retained CD56⁺ cells can be eluted as the positively selected cell fraction.

1.2 Background information

CD56 MicroBeads have been developed for the separation of human cells based on the expression of the CD56 antigen. CD56 is expressed by essentially all human NK cells and its density is increased on the cell membrane after activation.^{1,2} The antigen is also present on a unique subset of CD3⁺ T cells that mediates non-MHC-restricted cytotoxicity and on myoblasts, some neural tissue, and tumors.

1.3 Applications

- Positive selection or depletion of CD56⁺ cells from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) or lymphoid tissue.

1.4 Reagent and instrument requirements

- Buffer:** Prepare a solution containing phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.2, 0.5% bovine serum albumin (BSA), and 2 mM EDTA by diluting MACS BSA Stock Solution (#130-091-376) 1:20 with autoMACS® Rinsing Solution (#130-091-222). Keep buffer cold (2–8 °C). Degas buffer before use, as air bubbles could block the column.

▲ **Note:** EDTA can be replaced by other supplements such as anticoagulant citrate dextrose formula-A (ACD-A) or citrate phosphate dextrose (CPD). BSA can be replaced by other proteins such as human serum albumin, human serum, or fetal bovine serum (FBS). Buffers or media containing Ca²⁺ or Mg²⁺ are not recommended for use.

- MACS Columns and MACS Separators:** CD56⁺ cells can be enriched by using MS, LS, or XS Columns or depleted with the use of LD, CS, or D Columns. Cells which strongly express the CD56 antigen can also be depleted using MS, LS, or XS Columns. Positive selection or depletion can also be performed by using the autoMACS Pro Separator or the MultiMACS™ Cell24 Separator Plus.

Column	Max. number of labeled cells	Max. number of total cells	Separator
Positive selection			
MS	10^7	2×10^8	MiniMACS, OctoMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS II
LS	10^8	2×10^9	MidiMACS, QuadroMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS II,
	10^8	10^9	MultiMACS Cell24 Separator Plus
XS	10^9	2×10^{10}	SuperMACS II
Depletion			
LD	10^8	5×10^8	MidiMACS, QuadroMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS II, MultiMACS Cell24 Separator Plus
CS	2×10^8		VarioMACS, SuperMACS II
D	10^9		SuperMACS II

Positive selection or depletion

autoMACS	2×10 ⁸	4×10 ⁹	autoMACS Pro
Multi-24 Column Block (per column)	10 ⁸	10 ⁹	MultiMACS Cell24 Separator Plus

▲ **Note:** Column adapters are required to insert certain columns into the VarioMACS™ or SuperMACS™ II Separators. For details refer to the respective MACS Separator data sheet.

▲ **Note:** If separating with LS or LD Columns and the MultiMACS™ Cell24 Separator Plus use the Single-Column Adapter. Refer to the user manual for details.

- (Optional) Fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies for flow-cytometric analysis, e.g. CD3-FITC, CD45-PE, or CD56-PE. For more information about antibodies refer to www.miltenyibiotec.com/antibodies.

▲ **Note:** For fluorescent staining against CD56 an antibody clone has to be used which recognizes a different epitope of CD56 than that recognized by clone AF12-7H3, e.g. REA196.

- (Optional) Propidium Iodide Solution (# 130-093-233) or 7-AAD for flow cytometric exclusion of dead cells.
- (Optional) Dead Cell Removal Kit (# 130-090-101) for the depletion of dead cells.
- (Optional) Pre-Separation Filters (30 µm) (# 130-041-407) to remove cell clumps.

2. Protocol

2.1 Sample preparation

When working with anticoagulated peripheral blood or buffy coat, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) should be isolated by density gradient centrifugation, for example, using Ficoll-Paque™.

▲ **Note:** To remove platelets after density gradient separation, resuspend cell pellet in buffer and centrifuge at 200×g for 10–15 minutes at 20 °C. Carefully aspirate supernatant. Repeat washing step.

For details refer to the protocols section at www.miltenyibiotec.com/protocols.

When working with tissues, prepare a single-cell suspension using the gentleMACS™ Dissociator.

For details refer to www.gentlemacs.com/protocols.

▲ Dead cells may bind non-specifically to MACS® MicroBeads. To remove dead cells, we recommend using density gradient centrifugation or the Dead Cell Removal Kit (# 130-090-101).



2.2 Magnetic labeling

▲ Cells can be labeled with MACS MicroBeads using the autolabeling function of the autoMACS® Pro Separator. For more information refer to section 2.4.

▲ Work fast, keep cells cold, and use pre-cooled solutions. This will prevent capping of antibodies on the cell surface and non-specific cell labeling.

▲ Volumes for magnetic labeling given below are for up to 10⁷ total cells. When working with fewer than 10⁷ cells, use the same volumes as indicated. When working with higher cell numbers, scale up all reagent volumes and total volumes accordingly (e.g. for 2×10⁷ total cells, use twice the volume of all indicated reagent volumes and total volumes).

▲ For optimal performance it is important to obtain a single-cell suspension before magnetic labeling. Pass cells through 30 µm nylon mesh (Pre-Separation Filters (30 µm), # 130-041-407) to remove cell clumps which may clog the column. Moisten filter with buffer before use.

▲ The recommended incubation temperature is 2–8 °C. Higher temperatures and/or longer incubation times may lead to non-specific cell labeling. Working on ice may require increased incubation times.

1. Determine cell number.
2. Centrifuge cell suspension at 300×g for 10 minutes. Aspirate supernatant completely.
3. Resuspend cell pellet in 80 µL of buffer per 10⁷ total cells.
4. Add 20 µL of CD56 MicroBeads per 10⁷ total cells.
5. Mix well and incubate for 15 minutes in the refrigerator (2–8 °C).
6. Wash cells by adding 1–2 mL of buffer per 10⁷ cells and centrifuge at 300×g for 10 minutes. Aspirate supernatant completely.
7. Resuspend up to 10⁸ cells in 500 µL of buffer.
▲ **Note:** For higher cell numbers, scale up buffer volume accordingly.
▲ **Note:** For depletion with LD Columns, resuspend up to 1.25×10⁸ cells in 500 µL of buffer.
8. Proceed to magnetic separation (2.3).



2.3 Magnetic separation

▲ Choose an appropriate MACS Column and MACS Separator according to the number of total cells and the number of CD56⁺ cells. For details refer to the table in section 1.4.

▲ Always wait until the column reservoir is empty before proceeding to the next step.

Magnetic separation with MS or LS Columns

1. Place column in the magnetic field of a suitable MACS Separator. For details refer to the respective MACS Column data sheet.
2. Prepare column by rinsing with the appropriate amount of buffer:
MS: 500 µL LS: 3 mL
3. Apply cell suspension onto the column. Collect flow-through containing unlabeled cells.
4. Wash column with the appropriate amount of buffer. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through and combine with the flow-through from step 3.
MS: 3×500 µL LS: 3×3 mL

▲ **Note:** Perform washing steps by adding buffer aliquots as soon as the column reservoir is empty.

5. Remove column from the separator and place it on a suitable collection tube.
6. Pipette the appropriate amount of buffer onto the column. Immediately flush out the magnetically labeled cells by firmly pushing the plunger into the column.
MS: 1 mL LS: 5 mL

Magnetic separation with XS Columns

For instructions on the column assembly and the separation refer to the XS Column data sheet.

Depletion with LD Columns

1. Place LD Column in the magnetic field of a suitable MACS® Separator. For details refer to the LD Column data sheet.
2. Prepare column by rinsing with 2 mL of buffer.
3. Apply cell suspension onto the column.
4. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through and wash column with 2×1 mL of buffer. Collect total flow-through; this is the unlabeled cell fraction. Perform washing steps by adding buffer two times. Only add new buffer when the column reservoir is empty.

Depletion with CS Columns

1. Assemble CS Column and place it in the magnetic field of a suitable MACS Separator. For details refer to the CS Column data sheet.
2. Prepare column by filling and rinsing with 60 mL of buffer. Attach a 22G flow resistor to the 3-way stopcock of the assembled column. For details refer to the CS Column data sheet.
3. Apply cell suspension onto the column.
4. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through and wash column with 30 mL buffer from the top. Collect total flow-through; this is the unlabeled cell fraction.

Depletion with D Columns

For instructions on column assembly and separation refer to the D Column data sheet.

Magnetic separation with the MultiMACS™ Cell24 Separator

Refer to the the MultiMACS™ Cell Separator user manual for instructions on how to use the MultiMACS Cell24 Separator.

2.4 Cell separation with the autoMACS® Pro Separator

▲ Refer to the user manual for instructions on how to use the autoMACS® Pro Separator.

▲ All buffer temperatures should be ≥ 10 °C.

▲ For appropriate resuspension volumes and cell concentrations, please visit www.automacspro.com/autolabeling.

▲ Place tubes in the following Chill Rack positions:

position A = sample, position B = negative fraction,

position C = positive fraction.

2.4.1 Fully automated cell labeling and separation

1. Switch on the instrument for automatic initialization.
2. Go to the **Reagent** menu and select **Read Reagent**. Scan the 2D barcode of each reagent vial with the barcode scanner on the autoMACS Pro Separator. Place the reagent into the appropriate position on the reagent rack.
3. Place sample and collection tubes into the Chill Rack.

4. Go to the **Separation** menu and select the reagent name for each sample from the **Labeling** submenu (the correct labeling, separation, and wash protocols will be selected automatically).
5. Enter sample volume into the **Volume** submenu. Press **Enter**.
6. Select **Run**.

2.4.2 Magnetic separation using manual labeling

1. Label the sample as described in section 2.2 Magnetic labeling
2. Prepare and prime the instrument.
3. Apply tube containing the sample and provide tubes for collecting the labeled and unlabeled cell fractions. Place sample and collection tubes into the Chill Rack.
4. For a standard separation choose the following program:

Positive selection: Possel

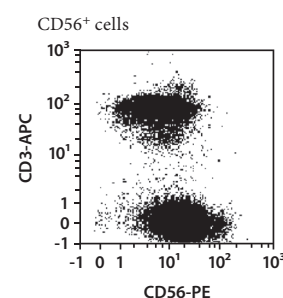
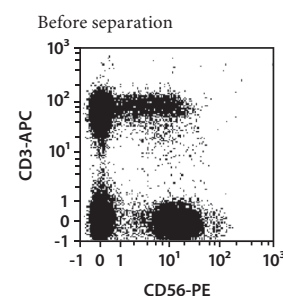
Collect positive fraction in row C of the tube rack.

Depletion: Depletes

Collect negative fraction in row B of the tube rack. [For “Depletion” MicroBead Kits add following sentence: This fraction represents the enriched CD56⁺ cells.]

3. Example of a separation using CD56 MicroBeads

CD56⁺ cells were isolated from human PBMCs using CD56 MicroBeads, an LS Column, and a MidiMACS™ Separator. Cells were fluorescently stained with CD56-PE and CD3-APC and analyzed by flow cytometry using the MACSQuant® Analyzer. Cell debris and dead cells were excluded from the analysis based on scatter signals and propidium iodide fluorescence.



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