Application of Epstein–Barr virus for optimization of immortalized B-lymphocyte production as a positive control in genetic studies

Behnaz Tousizadeh1,2, Sharareh Moghim3, Ahmad Reza Salehi Chaleshtori4, Maryam Ghanbarian5, Mina Mirian6, Mansoor Salehi1,4,6, Sepideh Tousizadeh7, Jafar Nasim

1Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Ayatollah Amoli Azad University, Amol, 2Pediatric Inherited Disease Research Center, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Departments of 3Microbiology and 6Genetics and Molecular Biology, School of Medicine, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, 4Medical Genetics Center of Genome, 5Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Science, Islamic Azad University, Falavarjan Branch, Isfahan, 7Department of Health, School of Health, Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Shahrekord, Iran

Background: Infection of B-cells with Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) leads to more and subsequent immortalization. This is considered as the method of choice for generating lymphoblastoids cell lines (LCLs). Producing LCLs, although very useful but is very time consuming and troublesome, drives the requirement for quicker and more reliable methods for EBV-driven B-cell transformation.

Materials and Methods: After successfully production of LCLs, different parameters including temperature, serum concentration, type of culture medium, and CO2 concentration were evaluated on EBV-transformed B-cells. In this study, we were able to produce LCLs and optimize condition.

Results: The best condition for generating LCLs was 37°C, 5% CO2, 20% fasting blood sugar, and RPMI 1640. The study results were to establish a reliable method for producing LCLs that can be used to produce immortalized B-cells from almost any sources.

Conclusion: This can help with tumorgenecity studies, as well as producing control material for rare genetic disorders and so on. The aim of this study was to determine optimized condition for reliable and reproducible LCLs from different sources.

Key Words: B95 cell, Epstein–Barr virus, immortalization, lymphoblastoids cell line, optimization