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1. Description

Components	<p>1 mL NK Cell Biotin-Antibody Cocktail, mouse: Cocktail of biotin-conjugated monoclonal antibodies against non-NK cells.</p> <p>2 mL Anti-Biotin MicroBeads: MicroBeads conjugated to monoclonal anti-biotin antibody (isotype: mouse IgG1).</p>
Capacity	For 10 ⁹ total cells.
Product format	All components are supplied in buffer 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

Using the NK Cell Isolation Kit II, mouse NK cells are isolated by depletion of non-target cells. Non-target cells are labeled with a cocktail of biotin-conjugated monoclonal antibodies and anti-biotin monoclonal antibodies conjugated to MicroBeads. The magnetically labeled non-target cells are depleted by retaining them within a MACS® Column in the magnetic field of a MACS Separator, while the unlabeled NK cells run through the column.

1.2 Background information

The NK Cell Isolation Kit II, mouse is an indirect magnetic labeling system for the isolation of untouched NK cells from suspensions of murine spleen, liver, and lymph node cells. Non-NK cells, i.e. T cells, dendritic cells, B cells, granulocytes, macrophages, and erythroid cells are indirectly magnetically labelled by using a cocktail of biotin-conjugated antibodies and Anti-Biotin MicroBeads. Isolation of highly pure unlabeled NK cells is achieved by depletion of the magnetically labeled cells.

1.3 Applications

- Untouched isolation of mouse NK cells for *in vitro* and *in vivo* applications.

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 mouse serum albumin, mouse serum, or fetal bovine serum (FBS). Buffers or media containing Ca²⁺ or Mg²⁺ are not recommended for use.
- MACS Columns and MACS Separators: Choose the appropriate MACS Separator and MACS Columns according to the number of labeled cells and to the number of total cells.

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	MidMACS, QuadroMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS II
autoMACS	2×10 ⁸	4×10 ⁹	autoMACS Pro, autoMACS

- ▲ **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.
- (Optional) Fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies for flow cytometric analysis, e.g., CD49b (DX5)-PE (# 130-091-816), Anti-NKp46-PE (# 130-095-116) or CD3ε-FITC (# 130-092-962). For more information about antibodies refer to www.miltenyibiotec.com/antibodies.
- (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 lymphoid organs, non-lymphoid tissues, or peripheral blood, prepare a single-cell suspension using manual methods or the gentleMACS™ Dissociator.

For details see the protocols section at www.miltenyibiotec.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

▲ 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 10^7 total cells. When working with fewer than 10^7 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 2×10^7 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 μ m nylon mesh (Pre-Separation Filters, 30 μ m, # 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. Working on ice may require increased incubation times. Higher temperatures and/or longer incubation times may lead to non-specific cell labeling.

1. Determine cell number.
2. Centrifuge cell suspension at 300×g for 10 minutes. Aspirate supernatant completely.
3. Resuspend cell pellet in 40 μ L of buffer per 10^7 total cells.
4. Add 10 μ L of NK Cell Biotin-Antibody Cocktail per 10^7 total cells.
5. Mix well and incubate for 5 minutes in the refrigerator (2–8 °C).
6. Wash cells by adding 2 mL of buffer per 10^7 cells and centrifuge at 300×g for 10 minutes. Aspirate supernatant completely.
7. Add 80 μ L of buffer per 10^7 cells.
8. Add 20 μ L of Anti-Biotin MicroBeads per 10^7 cells.
9. Mix well and incubate for an additional 10 minutes in the refrigerator (2–8 °C).
10. (Optional) Add staining antibodies, e.g., 10 μ L of CD49b (DX5)-PE (# 130-091-816), and incubate for 5 minutes in the dark in the refrigerator (2–8 °C).
11. Proceed to magnetic separation (2.3).

▲ **Note:** A minimum of 500 μ L is required for magnetic separation. If necessary, add buffer to the cell suspension.



2.3 Magnetic separation

▲ Choose an appropriate MACS Column and MACS Separator according to the number of total cells and the number of NK cells. For details see 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 μ L LS: 3 mL

3. Apply cell suspension onto the column. Collect flow-through containing unlabeled cells, representing the enriched NK cells.
4. Wash column with the appropriate amount of buffer. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through, representing the enriched NK cells, and combine with the flow-through from step 3.

MS: 500 μ L LS: 3 mL

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

5. (Optional) Remove column from the separator and place it on a suitable collection tube. Pipette the appropriate amount of buffer onto the column. Immediately flush out the magnetically labeled non-NK cells by firmly pushing the plunger into the column.

MS: 1 mL LS: 5 mL

Depletion with the autoMACS® Pro Separator or the autoMACS® Separator

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

▲ Buffers used for operating the autoMACS Pro Separator or the autoMACS Separator should have a temperature of ≥ 10 °C.

▲ Program choice depends on the isolation strategy, the strength of magnetic labeling, and the frequency of magnetically labeled cells. For details refer to the section describing the cell separation programs in the respective user manual.

Magnetic separation with the autoMACS® Pro Separator

1. Prepare and prime the instrument.
2. Apply tube containing the sample and provide tubes for collecting the labeled and unlabeled cell fractions. Place sample tube in row A of the tube rack and the fraction collection tubes in rows B and C.
3. For a standard separation choose the following program:

Depletion: depletes

Collect negative fraction in row B of the tube rack. This fraction represents the enriched NK cells.

4. (Optional) Collect positive fraction from row C of the tube rack. This fraction represents the magnetically labeled non-NK cells.

Magnetic separation with the autoMACS® Separator

1. Prepare and prime the instrument.
2. Apply tube containing the sample and provide tubes for collecting the labeled and unlabeled cell fractions. Place sample tube at the uptake port and the fraction collection tubes at port neg1 and port pos1.
3. For a standard separation choose the following program:

Depletion: depletes

Collect negative fraction from outlet port neg1. This fraction represents the enriched NK cells.

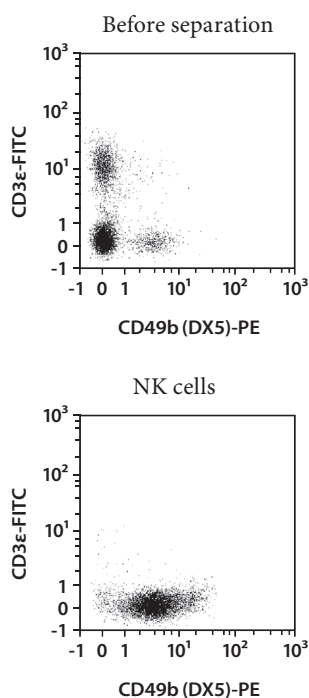
4. (Optional) Collect positive fraction from outlet port pos1. This fraction represents the magnetically labeled non-NK cells.

2.4 (Optional) Evaluation of NK cell purity

The purity of the enriched NK cells can be evaluated by flow cytometry or fluorescence microscopy. Stain cells before magnetic separation (section 2.2; step 8), or stain aliquots of each cell fraction. For detection of NK cells, use a fluorochrome-conjugated antibody against CD49b (DX5) or Anti-NKp46.

3. Example of a separation using the NK Cell Isolation Kit II

Isolation of untouched NK cells from a BALB/c mouse spleen cell suspension using the NK Cell Isolation Kit, an LS Column, and a MidiMACS Separator. The cells were fluorescently stained with CD49b (DX5)-PE (# 130-091-816) and CD3ε-FITC (# 130-092-962) 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.



All protocols and data sheets are available at www.miltenyibiotec.com.

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.

Warranty

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