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1, 2, 3

Establishment of Human Embryonic Stem Cells Derived from Frozen-Thawed Blastocysts

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Objective: This study was to establish the human embryonic stem (ES) cells derived from frozen-thawed blastocyst stage embryo that were destined to be discarded after five years in routine human IVF-ET program.

Methods: Frozen-thawed and survived human blastocysts were treated by immunosurgery, and recovered ICM cells were cultured onto STO feeder layers and ICM colony was subcultured by mechanical dissociation into clumps. To identify ES cell, alkaline phosphatase staining and expression of Oct4 in replated ICM colonies were examined. Also, to examine the possibility of ES cell differentiation, retinoic acid (RA), basic fibroblast growth factor (b-FGF), nerve growth factor (NGF) were added in culture medium. In addition, to classify the specific cell type, differentiated cells were stained by indirect immunocytochemistry.

Results: One ICM colony recovered from frozen-thawed six blastocysts was subcultured, continuously replated during 40 passage culture duration (about 200 days after immunosurgery) without differentiation. Subcultured colonies were strong positively stained by

alkaline phosphatase. When the expression of Oct4 in cultured ES colony was examined, Oct4b type is more clearly indicated than Oct4a one although there was not detected in embryoid body or differentiated colony. In differentiated cardiomyocytes from ES colony, cells were beaten regularly (60 times/min). In differentiated neuronal cells from ES colony, neurofilament (NF) 200 kDa protein, microtubule associated protein (MAP) 2 and α -tubulin of specific marker in neurons, glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) of specific marker in astrocytes and galactocerebroside (GalC) of specific marker in oligodendrocytes were confirmed by indirect immunocytochemistry. Also, muscle cells were detected by indirect immunocytochemistry. In addition, ES colonies can be successfully cryopreserved. Conclusion: Preparations of human ES cells derived from frozen-thawed blastocysts that were destined to be discarded bypass the problem of ethics in fresh embryos. Therefore, elucidating the mechanisms that control differentiation will facilitate the efficient, directed differentiation of ES cells to specific cell types (cardiomyocytes, neurons and muscle cells).

 Key words: Frozen-thawed human blastocysts, Inner cell mass (ICM), Embryonic stem (ES) cell, Differentiation

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 * (-10-2000-0050881, 10-2000-0065629)

(幹) (embryonic stem cell) 21 가
 . 210
 가 , 가 가
 1. , , 가
 2. ,
 .

5

1.

(human IVF-ET)

5

2.

1)

5, 6 (Fig. 1A)

20% sucrose

가

10 10

5% glycerol straw

9% glycerol, 0.2 M slow-program

3.

5%, 3%

1% glycerol

5

0.2 M sucrose

2

, 20%

24

(Fig. 1B) (

).

2) -

inner cell mass

(ICM) cells

(RIBI adjuvant, R-700

Freunds adjuvant)

2

4

10

3)

(Fig. 1C)
(zona pellucida) 0.25% pronase ,
1:20 30
, guinea pig complement 30
(Fig. 1D). pipette
(Fig. 1E), STO
(Fig. 1F).

4) STO (mouse embryonic fibroblast)

가
가 . STO
(leukemia inhibitory factor, LIF) 가 .
STO ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) ,
2 , mitomycin-C 2
가 .

5)

STO 20% FBS, 1 mM L-glutamine, 1%
non-essential amino acid 0.1 mM -mercaptoethanol 2000 unit LIF가
DMEM (Gibco, high glucose 4.5 g/L, no pyruvate) ,
STO .
7 STO (Fig.
1G-I).

6)

i)

가 Thomson ¹ Reubinoff ² , 가
(Fig. 2A).

ii) Alkaline phosphatase activity

가 ,
 4% formaldehyde 15 Fast
 Red TR/Naphthol AS-MX (Sigma) 15 ~ 30
 (Fig. 2B). Thomson ¹ Reubinoff ² .

iii) Oct4

Oct4
 alternative splicing form a b 가 . colony
 whole cell extraction⁴ RNA , cDNA
 . PCR 94 1 , 55 1 72 1 35 ,
 1% agarose gel ethidium bromide image analyzer
 (Biorad) . Oct4 primer Takeda ⁵
 (anti sense primer Oct4a,b , 5'-CCACATCGGCCTGTGTATAT-3',
 sense primer , Oct4a: 5'-CTCCTGGAGGGCCAGGAATC-3', Oct4b:
 5'-ATGCATGAGTCAGTG
 AACAG-3').

7)

i)

STO feeder 가 LIF가 가
 (L-glutamine, non-essential amino acid 20% FBS가 DMEM)
 가 . colony 1
 uM retinoic acid 가 (Fig. 5A-C),
 embryoid body colony 1 uM retinoic acid (RA), 10 ng/ml basic
 fibroblast growth factor (b-FGF), 100 ng/ml nerve growth factor (NGF)
 가 (Fig. 5D).
 , 1 .

ii)

colony , neurofilament (NF)
 200 kDa protein (Sigma) microtubule assisted protein (MAP) 2 (Sigma) -tubulin
 (Sigma) monoclonal (Fig. 5E-G), glial
 fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) galactocerebroside (GalC) polyclonal (Fig.
 5H-J), muscle actin (Sigma)
 monoclonal (Fig. 5K-L),
 FITC가 2 4
 Reubinoff 2 .

8)

가
 10% DMSO 가 ,
 colony
 -20 2 가 -70 . 가
 36 ,
 (Fig. 6).

6 4
 , 4 2 가 colony
 , 2 colony , 1 replating
 40 (200)
 (Table 1). alkaline phosphatase Oct4
 , alkaline phosphatase Fig. 2 B
 colony , embryoid body (Fig. 2C)
 가 . , Oct4
 Oct4a Oct4b가 (Fig. 3), Oct4b
 colony embryoid body (Fig. 3) colony (Fig. 4)

(Fig. 5).

(heart beat, 60

/1)

NF200, MAP2 -tubulin
GFAP oligodendrocyte
specific actin

GalC가 astrocyte
(Fig. 5).

muscle

가 Fig. 6

가

가

가 가

1998

(Thomson ¹; Shamblott ²)

^{1,2},

5

가

. Thomson ¹

(), (,) ()

. Shamblott ⁶ 5 9

. 2000 Reubinoff ²

6

가

가 가

Oct4

200

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Table 1. Human embryonic stem cells derived from frozen-thawed blastocyst stage embryos

Pts no.	No. of thawed blastocyst	No. of survived blastocyst	No. of immuno-surgery	No. of plated ICM cells	No. of attached ICM cells	No. of colony formed	No. of passage cultured*
2	6	5	4	4	2	2	1

*Culture duration of hES cells: 40 passage (about 200 days)

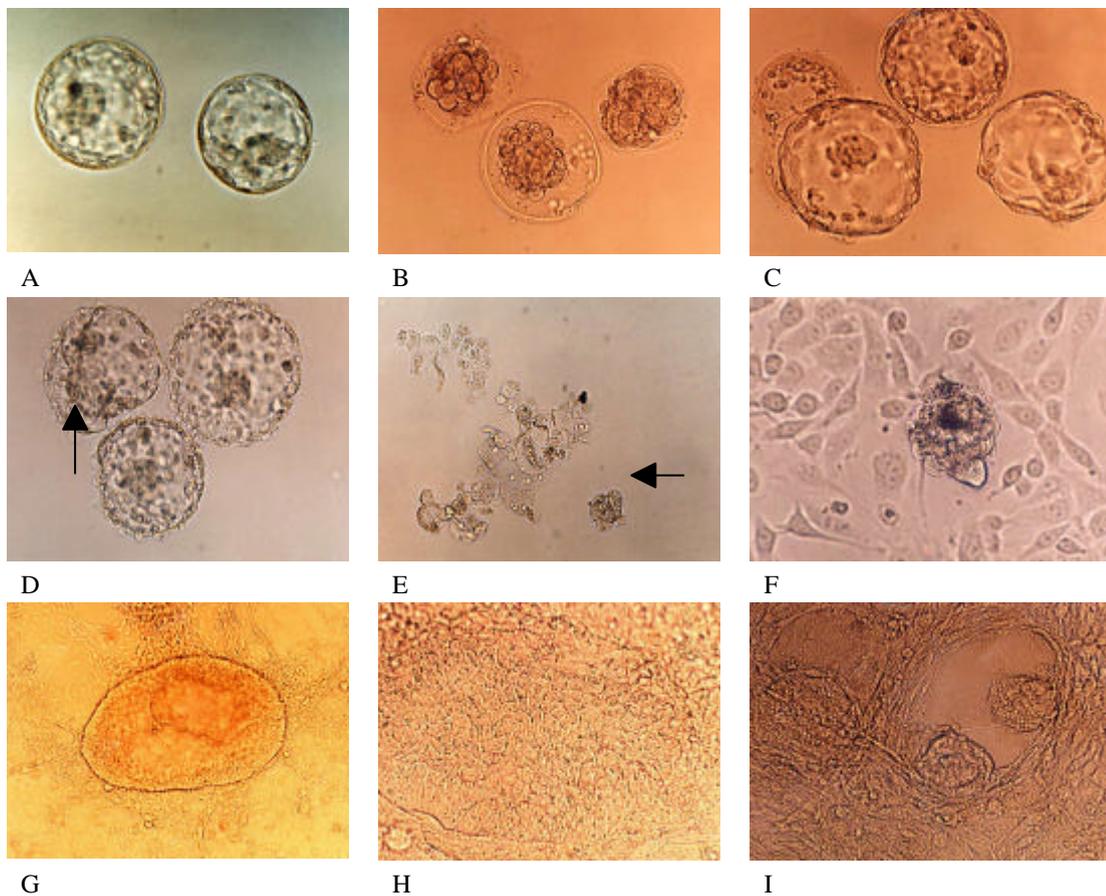


Fig. 1. Frozen-thawed human blastocysts, ICM recovery after immunosurgery and plating onto STO feeder cells. (A) In vitro produced human blastocysts. x 150. (B, C) Frozen-thawed blastocysts. x 150. (D) Bleb formation (arrow) immediately after immunosurgery. x 150. (E) Isolated ICM cell (arrow). x 150. (F) Plating of ICM onto STO cells. x 300. (G) Colony of ES cells. x 40. (H)

Higher magnification of an area of an ES cell colony. x 400. (l) Replated ES cell colony. x 100.



Fig. 2. Alkaline phosphatase activity assay of ES colony and embryoid body (EB). (A) ES colony formation after ICM plating. x 300. (B) Alkaline phosphatase staining of ES colony formation after ICM plating. x 300. (C) Alkaline phosphatase staining of EB. x 300.

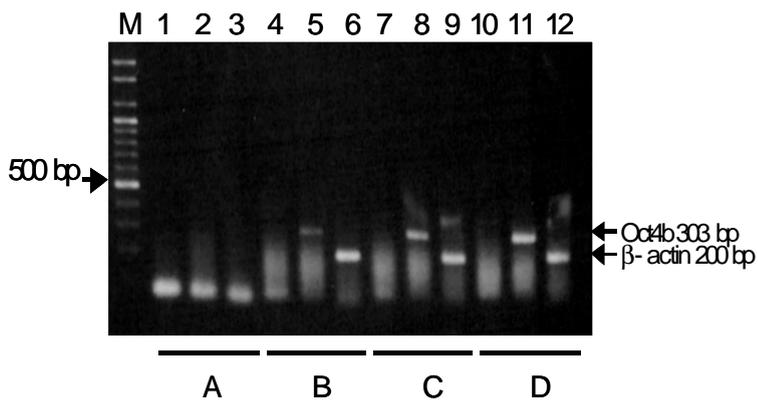


Fig. 3 Comparison of expression of Oct4 in embryoid body (EB) and embryonic stem (ES) colony. A: EB, B-D: ES colony in 8, 15, 30 passage, respectively. M; DNA ladder, 1, 4, 7 and 10 ; Oct4a, 2, 5, 8 and 11 ; Oct4b, 3, 6, 9 and 12 ; -actin.

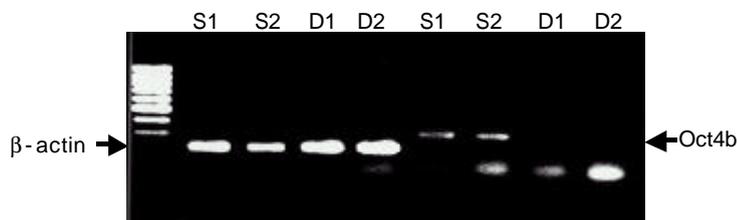


Fig. 4. Comparison of expression of Oct4b in embryonic stem (S) and differentiated stem (D) colony.

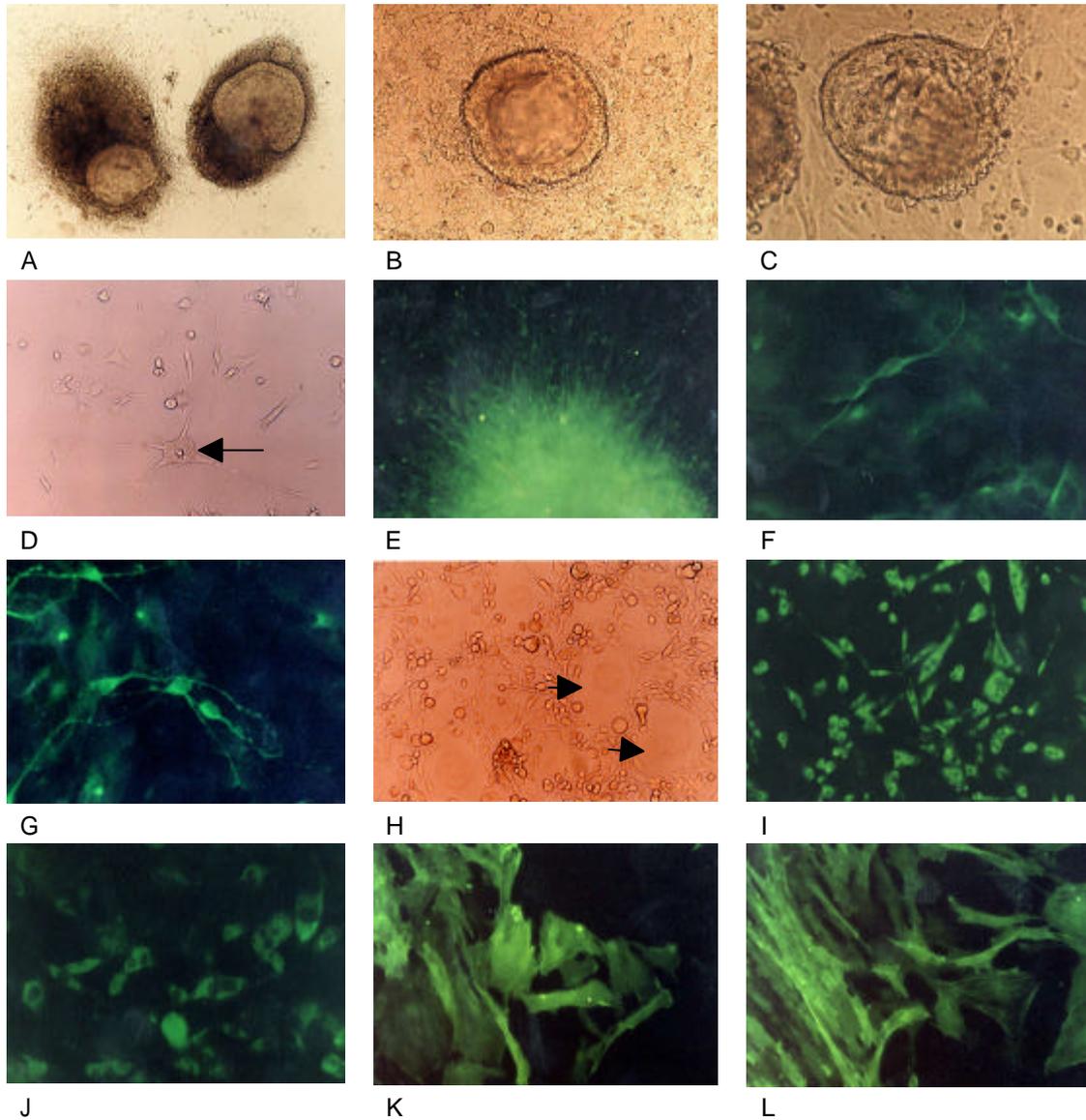


Fig. 5. Differentiated cell types derived from ES cells; Cardiomyocytes (A-C), neuronal cell (D-J) and muscle cells (K-L). A-D and H: Phase contrast micrographpic image. E-G and I-L: Indirect immunofluorescence microscopy of differentiated cells. A: Differentiated ES colony. x 40. B: Cardiomyocyte formation. x60. C: Beating cardiomyocytes. x 100. D: Typical neuron (arrow). x 100. H: Glial cells (arrows). x 100. Neuronal cells stained with anti-neurofilament 200 kDa protein, x 40 (E), anti-microtubule associated protein 2, x 600 (F), and anti-tubulin, x 600 (G). Glial cells stained with anti-glial fibrillary acid protein, x 100 (I), anti-galactosebroside, x 200 (J). Muscle cells stained with anti-muscle actin, x 400 (K-L).

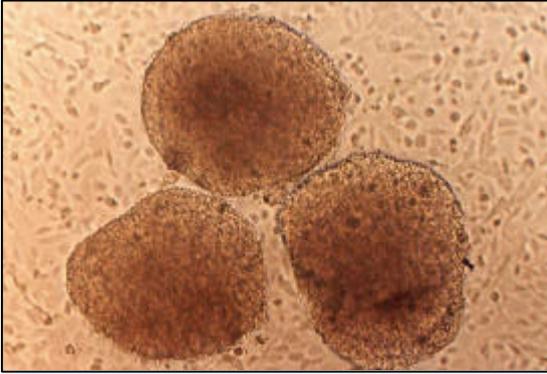


Fig. 6. Frozen-thawed and survived human ES colonies. x 60.