

## Ex vivo culture of gastric and intestinal stem cells as organoids

**Commonly used acronym:** Gut organoids

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## SCOPE OF THE METHOD

<b>The Method relates to</b>	Animal health
<b>The Method is situated in</b>	Basic Research, Translational - Applied Research
<b>Type of method</b>	In vitro - Ex vivo
<b>Species from which cells/tissues/organs are derived</b>	Mouse
<b>Type of cells/tissues/organs</b>	Gastric and intestinal stem cells

## DESCRIPTION

### Method keywords

intestine  
development  
cellular differentiation  
gut organoids  
epithelium  
adult stem cells  
foetal progenitors

### Scientific area keywords

intestinal stem cells  
gastric stem cells  
intestinal development  
Organoid biobank

organoid preservation  
gut regeneration  
cellular differentiation

### Method description

The tri-dimensional (3D) culture protocols allow isolation and culture of gastric epithelial antral and intestinal stem cells to efficiently generate organoids that recapitulate the mature pyloric and intestinal epithelium *in vitro* and foetal epithelial progenitors of these tissues growing as immature undifferentiated spheroids. The *ex vivo* culture approach is suitable to study gastric and intestinal function in homeostasis as well as in disease and developmental aspects of the gut.

### Lab equipment

- Biological safety cabinet,
- Cell culture incubator (37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>),
- Inverted bright field microscope Binocular,
- Cold light source,
- Ultra-low temperature upright Freezer (for biobank storage),
- FACS for single cell isolation.

### Method status

History of use  
Internally validated  
Published in peer reviewed journal

## PROS, CONS & FUTURE POTENTIAL

### Advantages

The organoid technology offers the possibility to grow indefinitely foetal progenitors and adult stem cells in culture. The cryo-preserved organoid samples (as a biobank) can be regrown upon thawing, keeping their original properties. This substantially reduces the use of individual animals (pre and post-natally). For adult-derived organoid cultures, all epithelial cell lineages are spontaneously differentiated from adult stem cells, in a proportion similar to that observed in the tissue of origin *in vivo*. Cellular imaging, genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic studies can be easily performed on organoids as well as Drug screening assays and gene editing. A similar protocol is reported for generation of human biobanks from biopsies.

### Challenges

This 3R compliant method requires initial use of animals as starting material to generate the biobank. Moreover, this method only allows to investigate epithelium function and does not reproduce the complex *in vivo* environment of a tissue (which includes stromal mesenchymal, immune, nervous cells and systemic derived-factors). Therefore, this organoid technology cannot totally avoid animal use in research.

### Modifications

Epithelial-derived organoids can be co-cultured with additional cell types to recomplexify the *in vivo* environment.

### Future & Other applications

Patient-derived organoids for personalized medicine.

## REFERENCES, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

### References

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### Links

[Ex vivo Culture of Fetal Mouse Gastric Epithelial Progenitors](#)

[Ex vivo Culture of Adult Mouse Antral Glands](#)

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