

## Development of organoids from human endometrial diseased tissues for mechanistic pathogenic research and (personalized) drug screening

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### Contact person

Hugo Vankelecom

### Organisation

**Name of the organisation** Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL)

**Department** Development and Regeneration

**Country** Belgium

**Geographical Area** Flemish Region

## SCOPE OF THE METHOD

<b>The Method relates to</b>	Human health
<b>The Method is situated in</b>	Basic Research, Translational - Applied Research
<b>Type of method</b>	In vitro - Ex vivo
<b>Specify the type of cells/tissues/organs</b>	healthy and diseased endometrial and endometriotic tissues

## DESCRIPTION

### Method keywords

organoids  
Preclinical study models  
drug screening  
Hormone responsiveness  
WNT  
RSPO  
LGR

### Scientific area keywords

Endometriosis  
Endometrial disease  
Tumour-derived  
Organoid biobank

### Method description

We have developed multiple organoid models from a broad spectrum of endometrial pathologies that capture endometrial disease diversity and will provide powerful research

models and drug screening and discovery tools. Organoids from endometriosis show disease-associated traits and cancer-linked mutations. Endometrial cancer-derived organoids accurately capture cancer subtypes, replicate the mutational landscape of the tumours and display patient-specific drug responses. Organoids were also established from precancerous pathologies encompassing endometrial hyperplasia and Lynch syndrome, and inherited gene mutations were maintained. Endometrial disease organoids reproduced the original lesion when transplanted *in vivo*. This represents the start of an extended biobank across healthy and pathological endometrium providing promising research models and drug screening and discovery tools.

### **Lab equipment**

- Cell incubator ;
- Biosafety cabinet ;
- Cell culture ;
- Epifluorescence ;
- Confocal microscopes.

### **Method status**

Published in peer reviewed journal

## **PROS, CONS & FUTURE POTENTIAL**

### **Advantages**

- Organoid models capture disease heterogeneity, maintain key features of the primary tissue, including the genetic background, and reproduce the lesion after *in vivo* transplantation.
- Organoids show strong expandability thereby overcoming the hurdle of limiting quantities of primary biopsies.
- Endometrial cancer-organoids show patient-specific drug responses, thereby providing conceptual evidence that the organoids are amenable to (personalized) drug screenings.
- Organoids are state-of-the-art research models that bridge the gap between bench and bedside, more reliably than animal models do, and may thus in the future gradually substitute for the latter.

### **Challenges**

Typical organoids reproduce the epithelial compartment of a (diseased) tissue. Hence, more advanced models, also incorporating other cells (such as stromal, endothelial and immune cells), are still needed to fully replicate the original tissue.

### **Modifications**

Developing more complex organoid models containing the different cell types of a tissue.

### **Future & Other applications**

- The endometriosis organoid biobank can be valuable in deciphering disease (and type-specific) pathogenesis, especially if epithelial and stromal compartments are (re)combined in future studies, and in the search for drug targets that provide an alternative to current hormonal suppression therapy.
- Organoids developed from hyperplastic endometrium (including Lynch syndrome) faithfully reproduce the disease genotype and can be valuable in the search for molecular mechanisms underlying the hyperplastic phenotype and its progression toward cancer.

- Since organoids are typically composed of the epithelial compartment of the original tissue, further perfecting the model by adding stromal and immune components of the tumor/tissue microenvironment will eventually be needed to reach the organoid model's full potential.

## REFERENCES, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

### References

Boretto, M., Maenhoudt, N., Luo, X. et al. Patient-derived organoids from endometrial disease capture clinical heterogeneity and are amenable to drug screening. *Nat Cell Biol* 21, 1041–1051 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41556-019-0360-z>

Boretto M., Cox B., Noben M.I, Hendriks N., Fassbender A., Roose H., Amant F., Timmerman D., Tomassetti C., Vanhie A., Meuleman C., Ferrante M., Vankelecom H. Development of organoids from mouse and human endometrium showing endometrial epithelium physiology and long-term expandability. *Development* (2017) 144, 1775-1786 doi:10.1242/dev.148478

### Links

[Prof. dr. Hugo Vankelecom, Department of Development and Regeneration, Cluster ...](#)

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