

APPENDIX I: CRYOPRESERVATION

Note: Only the immature parasite stage (rings) is viable by this method. We recommend a parasitemia of 3% or higher of ring-stage parasites for cryopreservation.

1. Centrifuge the culture at 1000 × g for 5 minutes.
2. Wash the pellet once with 10 or more volumes of incomplete RPMI 1640 medium. Centrifuge at 1800 × g for 5 minutes and leave sufficient supernatant to resuspend the pellet.
3. To the volume of packed red blood cells, slowly add dropwise one volume of cold (4°C) Glycerolyte 57 solution. Let stand for 5 minutes at room temperature.
4. Add dropwise an additional 4 volumes of cold Glycerolyte 57 solution to the pellet. Mix well and aliquot 0.5 mL into 1.5 mL sterile cryopreservation vials.
5. Place the vials in a controlled-rate freezing unit. From room temperature, cool the vials at -1°C/minute to -40°C. If the freezing unit can compensate for the heat of fusion, maintain rate at -1°C/minute through this phase. At -40°C, plunge vials into liquid nitrogen. Alternatively, place the vials in a Nalgene 1°C freezing container. Place the container at -80°C for 1 to 2 days and then plunge vials into liquid nitrogen.
6. Store in either the vapor or liquid phase of a nitrogen refrigerator (-130°C or colder).

APPENDIX II: MEDIA PREPARATION

1. Incomplete Medium: used for many applications involving wash steps during preparation of parasites for culture or assay. The incomplete medium consists of RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with the following components¹:

Incomplete Medium

RPMI 1640 medium^{2,3}

Sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃)⁴ 2.4 g/L

L-Glutamine 2 mM

HEPES [4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid] 25 mM

D-Glucose⁵ 2 g/L

Hypoxanthine 27 µg/mL

Gentamicin (optional) 5 µg/mL

¹Prepare sterile stock solutions at concentrations that are easily diluted into the liquid medium to obtain the appropriate user concentrations and add aseptically. Ready-made stock solutions for many of the components are available from numerous manufacturers.

²RPMI 1640 medium is available from numerous manufacturers as both a powder and a sterile, prepared liquid, with or without L-glutamine and HEPES. If using powdered RPMI 1640 medium, prepare the medium following manufacturer instructions, sterile-filter using a 0.22 µm filter, then aseptically add the necessary components in the appropriate concentrations.

³If stock solutions were not sterile or aseptic techniques were not followed, sterile-filter the medium using a 0.22 µm filter after the addition of all components. Store at 4°C.

⁴Prepared, liquid medium typically contains sodium bicarbonate while powdered medium does not. A typical concentration of sodium bicarbonate in RPMI 1640 medium is 2 g/L, though some formulations contain different amounts.

⁵A typical concentration of D-glucose in RPMI 1640 medium is 2 g/L. The option to supplement with an additional 2 g/L yields a final concentration of 4 g/L D-glucose.

2. Complete Medium: consists of incomplete medium (above) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated human serum. If necessary, filter the complete medium with a 0.22 µm filter. Since serum tends to clog sterilizing filters, a serum pre-filter may be used first, followed by a 0.22 µm sterilizing filter.

Note: Human serum type A is used with washed type O blood. Serum substitutes may be used; however, they may not be acceptable for all parasite strains.