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Research paper

Purification of bovine adrenal chromaffin cells by differential plating

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Abstract

A method is described for obtaining highly purified cultures of bovine chromaffin cells from crude adrenomedullary cell suspensions. The method is based on the different adhesiveness of chromaffin and non-chromaffin cells to glass and plastic surfaces (differential plating). Crude suspensions isolated by a modified version of the method described by Livett et al. (1979) (cf. Fenwick et al., 1978) contain $74.4 \pm 7.7\%$ ($n = 7$) chromaffin cells as determined by electron microscopy. Bringing the cells through 5 steps of differential plating results in cultures that are predominantly composed of chromaffin cells ($97.5 \pm 0.85\%$, $n = 8$). More than 90% of these cells are viable as judged by trypan blue exclusion and by electron microscopy. Cultures obtained by differential plating contain a significantly lower proportion of non-chromaffin cells than primary cultures both after one week ($45.5 \pm 1.2\%$ vs $86.7 \pm 4.6\%$, $n = 3$) and after

two weeks (85 vs 93%), when grown in Falcon flasks with medium 199 and 20% fetal calf serum, but without mitosis inhibitors. Cultures obtained by the method described in this paper may be profitably employed for studying the contributions of non-chromaffin cells to the functions of chromaffin cells.



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Keywords

isolated bovine adrenal medullary cells; purification of chromaffin cells; differential plating

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