

Cell nuclear protein preparation protocol for western blot

Isolation of nuclei from cells.

Reagents

Buffer A

20 mM Tris pH 7.5–8.0

100 mM NaCl

300 mM sucrose

3 mM MgCl₂

Buffer A contains sucrose and should be kept frozen at -20°C.

Buffer B

20 mM Tris pH 8.0

100 mM NaCl

2 mM EDTA pH 8.0

Keep at 4°C.

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Buffer C

20 mM Tris pH 8.0

100 mM NaCl

2 mM EDTA pH 8.0

2% SDS

Keep at room temperature.

Method

Prepare 1 ml of buffer A with added cocktail of usual protease inhibitors from frozen stock and store on ice.

Add 500 μ l buffer A per large petri dish on ice and scrape thoroughly. Leave on ice for 10 min.

Centrifuge at 4°C at 3,000 rpm for 10 min.

Remove supernatant and retain. This will contain everything except nuclei.

On ice, resuspend the pellet in 374 μ l buffer B and add 26 μ l of 4.6 M NaCl to give 300 mM NaCl (high salt helps lyse membranes and forces DNA into solution).

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Homogenize with 20 full strokes in Dounce or glass homogenizer on ice.

Leave on ice for 30 min.

Centrifuge at 24,000 g for 20 min at 4°C.

Aliquot supernatant, remove 10 µl for protein quantification and store at -70°C

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