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1. Description

Components	2 mL CD4 MicroBeads, human: MicroBeads conjugated to monoclonal anti-human CD4 antibodies (isotype: mouse IgG1).
Capacity	For 10 ⁹ total cells, up to 100 separations.
Product format	CD4 MicroBeads are supplied in buffer containing stabilizer and 0.05% sodium azide.
Storage	Store protected from light at 2–8 °C. Do not freeze. The expiration date is indicated on the vial label.

1.1 Principle of the MACS® Separation

First, the CD4⁺ cells are magnetically labeled with CD4 MicroBeads. Then, the cell suspension is loaded onto a MACS® Column which is placed in the magnetic field of a MACS Separator. The magnetically labeled CD4⁺ cells are retained within the column. The unlabeled cells run through; this cell fraction is thus depleted of CD4⁺ cells. After removing the column from the magnetic field, the magnetically retained CD4⁺ cells can be eluted as the positively selected cell fraction.

1.2 Background information

CD4 MicroBeads have been developed for the separation of human cells based on the expression of the CD4 antigen. CD4 is a 55 kDa protein that is highly expressed on T helper cells in the thymus and peripheral blood. In T helper cells, CD4 functions as an accessory molecule for the recognition of MHC class II/peptide complexes by TCR heterodimers. CD4 is also expressed on monocytes and dendritic cells, albeit at lower levels than on CD4⁺ T helper cells. In conjunction with certain chemokine receptors, CD4 is the primary high-affinity receptor for HIV.

1.3 Applications

- Positive selection or depletion of CD4⁺ T cells from peripheral blood, leukapheresis¹, cord blood, lymph nodes, thymus, spleen, skin biopsies², synovial fluids, bronchial lavages, or cell cultures.
- Functional studies on CD4⁺ T cells, such as proliferation or cytotoxicity assays.³
- *In vitro* culture of CD4⁺ T cells for evaluation of cytokine production.⁴
- Coculture experiments of CD4⁺ T cells with dendritic cells¹ or B cells² for evaluation of the activation of antigen-presenting cells.
- Numerous applications for HIV research, for example, *in vitro* infection of cells with HIV, evaluation of the infectivity of HIV-infected follicular dendritic cells⁵, assessment of immune reconstitution after antiviral therapy⁶, and monitoring of aberrations in the immune system of children from HIV-infected mothers⁷.

1.4 Reagent and instrument requirements

- **Buffer:** Prepare a solution containing phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.2, 0.5% bovine serum albumin (BSA), and 2 mM EDTA by diluting MACS BSA Stock Solution (# 130-091-376) 1:20 with autoMACS™ Rinsing Solution (# 130-091-222). Keep buffer cold (2–8 °C). Degas buffer before use, as air bubbles could block the column.
 - ▲ **Note:** EDTA can be replaced by other supplements such as anticoagulant citrate dextrose formula-A (ACD-A) or citrate phosphate dextrose (CPD). BSA can be replaced by other proteins such as human serum albumin, human serum, or fetal bovine serum. Buffers or media containing Ca²⁺ or Mg²⁺ are not recommended for use.
- (Optional) Fluorochrome-conjugated CD4 antibody for flow cytometric analysis, e.g., CD4-FITC (# 130-080-501). For more information about other fluorochrome-conjugates see www.miltenyibiotec.com.
- (Optional) Propidium iodide (PI) or 7-AAD for flow cytometric exclusion of dead cells.
- (Optional) Dead Cell Removal Kit (# 130-090-101) for the depletion of dead cells.
- (Optional) Pre-Separation Filters (# 130-041-407) to remove cell clumps.

- MACS Columns and MACS Separators: CD4⁺ cells can be enriched by using MS, LS, or XS Columns or depleted with the use of LD, CS, or D Columns. Cells which strongly express the CD4 antigen can also be depleted using MS, LS, or XS Columns. Positive selection or depletion can also be performed by using the autoMACS or the autoMACS Pro Separator.

Column	Max. number of labeled cells	Max. number of total cells	Separator
Positive selection			
MS	10 ⁷	2×10 ⁸	MiniMACS, OctoMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS
LS	10 ⁸	2×10 ⁹	MidiMACS, QuadroMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS
XS	10 ⁹	2×10 ¹⁰	SuperMACS
Depletion			
LD	10 ⁸	5×10 ⁸	MidiMACS, QuadroMACS, VarioMACS, SuperMACS
CS	2×10 ⁸		VarioMACS, SuperMACS
D	10 ⁹		SuperMACS
Positive selection or depletion			
autoMACS	2×10 ⁸	4×10 ⁹	autoMACS, autoMACS Pro

▲ **Note:** Column adapters are required to insert certain columns into the VarioMACS™ or SuperMACS™ Separators. For details see the respective MACS Separator data sheet.

2. Protocol

2.1 Sample preparation

When working with anticoagulated peripheral blood or buffy coat, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) should be isolated by density gradient centrifugation, for example, using Ficoll-Paque™. For details see the General Protocols section of the respective separator user manual. The General Protocols are also available at www.miltenyibiotec.com/protocols.

▲ **Note:** To remove platelets after density gradient separation, resuspend cell pellet in buffer and centrifuge at 200×g for 10–15 minutes at 20 °C. Carefully aspirate supernatant. Repeat washing step.

When working with tissues or lysed blood, prepare a single-cell suspension using standard methods. For details see the General Protocols section of the respective separator user manual. The General Protocols are also available at www.miltenyibiotec.com/protocols.

▲ Dead cells may bind non-specifically to MACS MicroBeads. To remove dead cells, we recommend using density gradient centrifugation or the Dead Cell Removal Kit (# 130-090-101).

For the isolation of highly pure T helper cells, monocytes should be depleted prior to CD4⁺ T cell enrichment, using CD14 MicroBeads (# 130-050-201).

For a detailed protocol, see special protocol "Isolation of CD4⁺ T helper cells" at www.miltenyibiotec.com/protocols.



2.2 Magnetic labeling

▲ Work fast, keep cells cold, and use pre-cooled solutions. This will prevent capping of antibodies on the cell surface and non-specific cell labeling.

▲ Volumes for magnetic labeling given below are for up to 10⁷ total cells. When working with fewer than 10⁷ cells, use the same volumes as indicated. When working with higher cell numbers, scale up all reagent volumes and total volumes accordingly (e.g. for 2×10⁷ total cells, use twice the volume of all indicated reagent volumes and total volumes).

▲ For optimal performance it is important to obtain a single-cell suspension before magnetic separation. Pass cells through 30 μm nylon mesh (Pre-Separation Filters, # 130-041-407) to remove cell clumps which may clog the column. Wet filter with buffer before use.

▲ Working on ice may require increased incubation times. Higher temperatures and/or longer incubation times may lead to non-specific cell labeling.

- Determine cell number.
- Centrifuge cell suspension at 300×g for 10 minutes. Aspirate supernatant completely.
- Resuspend cell pellet in 80 μL of buffer per 10⁷ total cells.
- Add 20 μL of CD4 MicroBeads per 10⁷ total cells.
- Mix well and incubate for 15 minutes in the refrigerator (2–8 °C).
- (Optional) Add staining antibodies, e.g., 10 μL of CD4-FITC (# 130-080-501), and incubate for 5 minutes in the dark in the refrigerator (2–8 °C).
- Wash cells by adding 1–2 mL of buffer per 10⁷ cells and centrifuge at 300×g for 10 minutes. Aspirate supernatant completely.
- Resuspend up to 10⁸ cells in 500 μL of buffer.
 - ▲ **Note:** For higher cell numbers, scale up buffer volume accordingly.
 - ▲ **Note:** For depletion with LD Columns, resuspend up to 1.25×10⁸ cells in 500 μL of buffer.
- Proceed to magnetic separation (2.3).



2.3 Magnetic separation

▲ Choose an appropriate MACS Column and MACS Separator according to the number of total cells and the number of CD4⁺ cells. For details see table in section 1.4.

Magnetic separation with MS or LS Columns

1. Place column in the magnetic field of a suitable MACS Separator. For details see the respective MACS Column data sheet.
2. Prepare column by rinsing with the appropriate amount of buffer:
MS: 500 µL LS: 3 mL
3. Apply cell suspension onto the column.
4. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through and wash column with the appropriate amount of buffer. Collect total effluent; this is the unlabeled cell fraction. Perform washing steps by adding buffer three times. Only add new buffer when the column reservoir is empty.
MS: 3×500 µL LS: 3×3 mL
5. Remove column from the separator and place it on a suitable collection tube.
6. Pipette the appropriate amount of buffer onto the column. Immediately flush out the magnetically labeled cells by firmly pushing the plunger into the column.
MS: 1 mL LS: 5 mL
7. (Optional) To increase the purity of CD4⁺ cells, the eluted fraction can be enriched over a second MS or LS Column. Repeat the magnetic separation procedure as described in steps 1 to 6 by using a new column.

Magnetic separation with XS Columns

For instructions on the column assembly and the separation refer to the XS Column data sheet.

Depletion with LD Columns

1. Place LD Column in the magnetic field of a suitable MACS Separator. For details see LD Column data sheet.
2. Prepare column by rinsing with 2 mL of buffer.
3. Apply cell suspension onto the column.
4. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through and wash column with 2×1 mL of buffer. Collect total effluent; this is the unlabeled cell fraction. Perform washing steps by adding buffer two times. Only add new buffer when the column reservoir is empty.

Depletion with CS Columns

1. Assemble CS Column and place it in the magnetic field of a suitable MACS Separator. For details see CS Column data sheet.

2. Prepare column by filling and rinsing with 60 mL of buffer. Attach a 22G flow resistor to the 3-way stopcock of the assembled column. For details see CS Column data sheet.
3. Apply cell suspension onto the column.
4. Collect unlabeled cells that pass through and wash column with 30 mL buffer from the top. Collect total effluent; this is the unlabeled cell fraction.

Depletion with D Columns

For instructions on column assembly and separation refer to the D Column data sheet.

Magnetic separation with the autoMACS™ Separator or the autoMACS™ Pro Separator

▲ Refer to the respective user manual for instructions on how to use the autoMACS™ Separator or the autoMACS Pro Separator.

▲ Buffers used for operating the autoMACS Separator or the autoMACS Pro Separator should have a temperature of ≥ 10 °C.

▲ Program choice depends on the isolation strategy, the strength of magnetic labeling, and the frequency of magnetically labeled cells. For details refer to the section describing the cell separation programs in the respective user manual.

Magnetic separation with the autoMACS™ Separator

1. Prepare and prime the instrument.
2. Apply tube containing the sample and provide tubes for collecting the labeled and unlabeled cell fractions. Place sample tube at the uptake port and the fraction collection tubes at port neg1 and port pos1.
3. For a standard separation choose one of the following programs:
Positive selection: “Possel”
Collect positive fraction from outlet port pos1.

Depletion: “Depletes”
Collect negative fraction from outlet port neg1.

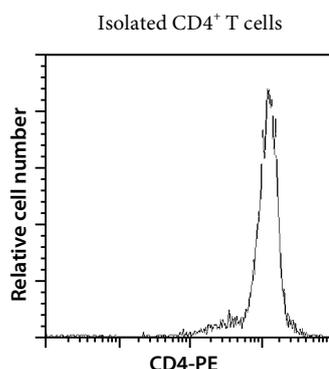
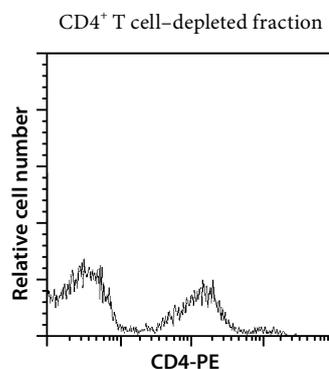
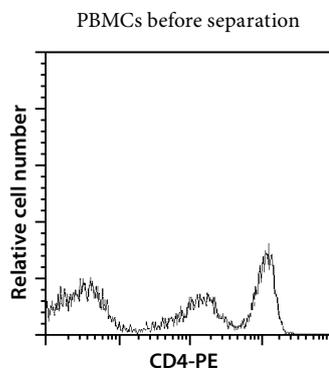
Magnetic separation with the autoMACS™ Pro Separator

1. Prepare and prime the instrument.
2. Apply tube containing the sample and provide tubes for collecting the labeled and unlabeled cell fractions. Place sample tube in row A of the tube rack and fraction collection tubes in rows B and C.
3. For a standard separation choose one of the following programs:
Positive selection: “Possel”
Collect positive fraction in row C of the tube rack.

Depletion: “Depletes”
Collect negative fraction in row B of the tube rack.

3. Example of a separation using the CD4 MicroBeads

CD4⁺ cells were isolated from human PBMCs using CD4 MicroBeads, an MS Column, and a MiniMACS™ Separator. Cells are fluorescently stained with CD4-PE (# 130-091-231). Cell debris and dead cells are excluded from the analysis based on scatter signals and PI fluorescence.



4. References

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4. Akdis, A. C. *et al.* (1995) Cytokine immunotrapping: an assay to study the kinetics of production and consumption or degradation of human interferon-gamma. *J. Immunol. Methods* 182: 251–261. [221]
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All protocols and data sheets are available at www.miltenyibiotec.com.

Warnings

Reagents contain sodium azide. Under acidic conditions sodium azide yields hydrazoic acid, which is extremely toxic. Azide compounds should be diluted with running water before discarding. These precautions are recommended to avoid deposits in plumbing where explosive conditions may develop.

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