

# The Experimental Study on Cryopreservation of Mouse Embryo

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**Objectives:** This study was carried out to evaluate the effects of embryonic stage, cryoprotectant, and freezing-thawing method on the rates of survival and development of the cryopreserved mouse early embryo and finally to establish the cryopreservation method of surplus embryos obtained during assisted reproductive technology (ART).

**Materials and Methods:** Two to eight cell embryos were obtained from oviducts of mated F<sub>1</sub> hybrid female mice superovulated by pregnant mare's serum gonadotropin(PMSG) and human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). Two-step 1, 2-propanediol (PROH), dimethylsulfoxide(DMSO) and 4-step PROH, DMSO were used as cryoprotectant and dehydration and rehydration method of embryos, and slow-cooling or rapid-cooling method was used as frozen program. The survival rates of embryos were measured after thawing and rehydration, and the developmental rates of embryos were compared and observed during culturing embryos for 24, 48, 72, 96 hrs.

**Results:** As for the survival and development rates of embryos according to embryonic stage, the survival rate of 2 cell stage in PROH and DMSO was significantly higher than 4-8 cell ( 64.5% versus 62.1%, 79.7% versus 73.2%) ( $p<0.01$ ,  $p<0.01$ ), but the development rates of 4-8 cell embryos in PROH and DMSO were significantly higher than 2 cell embryos for whole culture period ( $p<0.01$ ) and the development rates of 4-8 cell embryos in PROH were significantly higher than 2 cell embryos in DMSO ( $p<0.01$ ). As for the survival and development rates of embryos according to cryoprotectant, the survival rate of 2 cell embryo in DMSO was significantly higher than that in PROH (74.4% versus 64.5%) ( $p<0.01$ ), whereas the development rate of embryos was not differ till 24 hrs. The development rate from morular to hatching blastocyst, however, was significantly higher in PROH than in DMSO during 48 hr ( $p<0.01$ ). The survival rate of 4-8 cell embryo was 62.1% in PROH and 73.2% in DMSO. The development rates of embryo in PROH were significantly higher for whole culture periods ( $p<0.01$ , 0.05). In respect to the effect of freezing and thawing program on the survival and development rates of embryos, method of slow cooling and rapid thawing was more effective than that of rapid cooling and rapid thawing.

**Conclusions:** The survival rate of embryo in 2 cell stage was higher than in 4-8 cell stage, and PROH appears more effective cryoprotectant than DMSO because PROH showed better development rates of embryos in 2 and 4-8 cell stage. Moreover, slow cooling and rapid thawing method was considered as the best cryopreservation program.

**Key words :** Cryopreservation, Mouse embryo, PROH, DMSO.

20

가 , 1

가 . 5 15 ~ 20%

1-3

4

4-6

가

가

가

1972 Whittingham<sup>7</sup> 6,  
8, 9  
DMSO -80 -0.3 4-8  
1983 Trounson More<sup>10</sup>가  
1984 Zeilmaler<sup>11</sup>  
-40 8  
Lassalle<sup>12</sup> PROH sucrose 가  
-30 Cohen<sup>13</sup> glycerol

가

1)

1 (C57BL × CBA ) 4-5  
6-8 가 (12 :12 )

2)

2 4-8 , PROH DMSO, -

3)

2 4-8  
5 IU pregnant mare's serum gonadotropin (PMSG, Sigma)  
48 5 IU human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG, Sigma)  
. hCG 1:1 . 2  
hCG 48 , 4-8 hCG 60-62  
0.4% 가 (Dulbecco's  
phosphate buffered saline, Gibco Cat. No. 450-1300) 30G 1  
1 (35×10mm, Falcon 3001)

4)

(1) PROH

20% (fetal  
bovine serum, Gibco ) 가  
1,2-propanediol(PROH, Sigma P-1009) 가 1.5M PROH 1.5M PROH 0.1M  
sucrose 가 PROH 가 0.5M,  
1.0M 0.1M sucrose  
0.22 μ millipore filter(Acrodisc 4192, German)

(2) DMSO

dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO, Merk ) 가 1.5M DMSO

1.5M DMSO 0.1M sucrose 가 . DMSO 가  
0.5 M, 1.0M 0.1M sucrose .  
0.22 μ millipore filter(Acrodisc 4192, German)  
1 - 2 .

5)

(1)

2 . 1 1.5M PROH  
1.5M DMSO, 2 1.5M PROH 0.1 M sucrose 가 1.5M DMSO 0.1M  
sucrose가 가 15 .

(2)

1.5M PROH 0.1M sucrose 가 가 1.5M DMSO 0.1M sucrose 가  
가 15 가 0.25ml (A-201, IMV, France)  
mouth piece .

(3)

(KRYO 10 , Planer, U.K.) loading

가. -  
+20 -7 1 -2 -7 1  
(-196 ) 가  
5 -30 - 0.3  
10  
-196  
가  
가  
가  
0 1 -3 0 10



1) (Table 1, 2)

	2	4-8	PROH	DMSO	
		2		PROH	64.5% DMSO 79.7%,
4-8		62.1%, 73.2%	PROH	DMSO	2
		(p<0.01),	2	4-8	24, 48,
72, 96			PROH	2	82.8%,
58.9%, 58.3%, 53%, 4-8		84.1%, 86.6%, 72.2%		DMSO	2
		80.7%, 29.8%, 30.7%, 20.2%, 4-8		49%, 36.2%, 25.5%	
	PROH	DMSO	4-8	가 2	
		(p<0.01).			

2)

(1) 2 (Table 3)

	2	PROH	DMSO	
PROH	64.5%, DMSO	74.4%	DMSO	(p<0.01), 24,
48, 72, 96			PROH	82.8%, 58.9%, 58.3%, 53.0%
	, DMSO	80.8%, 35.1%, 35.1%, 31.8%	PROH	48
		(p<0.01).		

(2) 4-8 (Table 4)

	4-8	PROH	DMSO	
PROH	62.1%, DMSO	73.2%	DMSO	(p<0.01), 24,
48, 72			PROH	84.1%, 86.6%, 76.2%,
DMSO	67.0%, 49.5%, 34.9%,	PROH		
	(p<0.01, p<0.05).			

3) (Table 5)

2

	74.8%,	-	3.2%
	(p<0.001),		-

39.1%가	-	4
11.1%	.	



Table 1. Effect of cryopreservation by using of PROH on mouse embryo development according to two different mouse embryo stages

cell stage	No. of frozen embryo	No. of recovered embryo (%)	No. of survival embryo (%)	development of embryo(%)						
				4-8cell 24hr	culture time				hatching 96hr    72hr	
					morular 48hr	24hr	blastocyst			
							7 h 48hr	2 h		
2 cell	246	234(95.1)	151(64.5) *	125(82.8)	89(58.9)		50(83.3)		46(76.7)	
4 - 8 cell	299	264(88.3)	164(62.1)		138(84.1) <sup>*</sup>		142(86.6) <sup>*</sup>		125(76.2) <sup>*</sup>	

\*p<0.01

Table 2. Effect of cryopreservation by using of DMSO on mouse embryo development according to two different mouse embryo stages

cell stage	No. of frozen embryo	No. of recovered embryo (%)	No. of survival embryo (%)	development of embryo(%)					
				4-8cell 24hr	culture time				hatching 96hr    72hr
					morular 48hr	24hr	blastocyst		
							7 h 48hr	2 h 48hr	
2 cell	170	143(84.1)	114(79.7) <sup>*</sup>	92(80.7)	34(29.8)		35(30.7)		23(20.2)
4 - 8 cell	163	149(91.4)	109(73.2)		73(49) <sup>*</sup>		54(36.2) <sup>*</sup>		38(25.5) <sup>*</sup>

\*p<0.01

Table 3. Effect of two different cryoprotectants on survival and development rate of 2 cell mouse embryo

cryoprotectant	No. of frozen embryo	No. of recovered embryo (%)	No. of survival embryo (%)	development of embryo (%)			
				culture time			
				24hr (4-8cell )	48hr (morular )	72hr (blastocyst )	96hr (hatching )
Control		60		57(95.0)	55(91.7)	50(83.3)	46(76.7)
PROH	246	234(95.1)	151(64.5)	125(82.8)	89(58.9)*	88(58.3)*	80(53.0)*
DMSO	230	203(88.2)	151(74.4)*	122(80.8)	53(35.1)	53(35.1)	48(31.8)

\*p<0.01

Table 4. Effect of two different cryoprotectants on survival and development rate of 4-8 cell mouse embryo

cryoprotectant	No. of frozen embryo	No. of recovered embryo (%)	No. of survival embryo (%)	development of embryo(%)		
				culture time		
				24hr (morular )	48hr (blastocyst )	72hr (hatching )
Control		40		40(100)	40(100)	36(90.0)
PROH	299	264(88.3)	164(62.1)	138(84.1)*	142(86.6)*	125(76.2)**
DMSO	163	149(91.4)	109(73.2)*	73(67.0)	54(49.5)	38(34.9)

\*p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05

Table 5. The development of 2 cell mouse embryos according to two different frozen methods

Method	No. of frozen embryo	No. of recovered embryo (%)	No. of survival embryo (%)	development of embryo(%)			
				culture time			
				24hr (4-8cell )	48hr (morular )	72hr (blastocyst )	96hr (hatching )
Control		60		56(93.3)	53(88.3)	50(83.3)	48(80.0)
Slow	354	334(94.4)	250(74.8) *	209(83.6)	166(66.4)	111(44.4)	108(43.2)
Rapid	325	284(87.4)	9(3.2)	1(11.1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)

\*p<0.001

가

1947 Chang<sup>14</sup>, 1949 Polge<sup>15</sup>

가 1972

Whittingham<sup>8</sup> Wilmot<sup>16</sup>가 8-

가

12,16, 15,16, 15,16

가 가 가

가

17,18

1 - 4 PROH<sup>12</sup>, 4 - 8

DMSO<sup>10</sup>,

glycerol<sup>13</sup>

glycerol

10

2, 4 - 8 PROH, DMSO -

Lassalle<sup>12</sup> PROH 1 - 4 53%, 4

24.5%, 2 64.5%, 4 - 8 62.1%

PROH가 4

2 4 - 8 1 4

Liu<sup>19</sup>, 1, 4,

Emiliani<sup>20</sup>

가

가

21, 22

가

23,

23. 가

24

PROH, DMSO, glycerol sucrose -

25,26. 2, 4-8 -

PROH DMSO sucrose

2 PROH

48 (p<0.01),

DMSO

4-8 PROH

가 , DMSO 48

PROH 2, 4-8 DMSO

가 2 DMSO PROH

Macas<sup>27</sup> PROH

Van-den-Abbeel<sup>28</sup>

7,29 -30

-0.3 ~ -0.4 /min<sup>7</sup>, -80

30.

가

31.

가

32 가

2 가 4-8 (p<0.01)

4-8 가 (p<0.01)

(p<0.01)

2, 4-8 DMSO

PROH가 DMSO

가 2, 4-8

PROH가

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