

Protocol for isolating both cytoplasmic and nuclear extracts:

Solutions:

Harvest buffer:

10mM HEPES pH 7.9
 50mM NaCl
 0.5M Sucrose
 0.1mM EDTA
 0.5% Triton x 100

For 50ml:

0.5ml 1M HEPES
 0.5ml 5M NaCl
 8.56g sucrose
 10 μ l 0.5M EDTA
 2.5ml 10% triton

*freshly add to harvest buffer just before use:

1mM DTT
 1mM PMSF
 4 μ g/ml Aprotinin
 2 μ g/ml Pepstatin A
 10mM tetrasodium pyrophosphate (phosphatase inhibitor)
 100mM NaF (phosphatase inhibitor)
 17.5 mM β -glycophosphate (phosphatase inhibitor)

Buffer A (optional):

10mM HEPES pH 7.9
 10mM KCL
 0.1mM EDTA
 0.1mM EGTA

For 50ml:

0.5ml 1M HEPES
 250 μ l 2M KCL
 10 μ l 0.5M EDTA
 10 μ l 0.5M EGTA

*freshly add to buffer A just before use:

1mM DTT
 1mM PMSF
 4 μ g/ml Aprotinin
 2 μ g/ml Pepstatin A

Buffer C:

10mM HEPES pH 7.9
 500mM NaCl
 0.1mM EDTA
 0.1mM EGTA
 0.1% (NP40)

For 50ml 1X:

0.5ml 1M HEPES
 5ml 5M NaCl
 10 μ l 0.5M EDTA
 10 μ l 0.5M EGTA
 250 μ l 20% NP40

for 50ml 2X

1ml 1M HEPES
 10ml 5M NaCl
 20 μ l 0.5M EDTA
 20 μ l 0.5M EGTA
 500 μ l 20% NP40

*freshly add to buffer C just before use:

1mM DTT
 1mM PMSF
 4 μ g/ml Aprotinin
 2 μ g/ml Pepstatin A

Ice cold PBS and PBS-1mM EDTA

Method:

- Place plates on ice.
 - Wash 2X with cold PBS-5mM-EDTA.
 - Add 1ml PBS-5mM-EDTA and scrape cells. Transfer to 1.5ml tube.
 - Pellet at 3000rpm 5 min.
 - Resuspend in 50-500 μ l (2-4 vol) Harvest buffer.
 - Incubate on ice 5min.
 - Pellet at 1000rpm in a table top swinging bucket rotor (for example by resting microfuge tubes in 15ml tubes while spinning) for 10min to pellet nuclei @ 4C (preferable). Alternatively spin in a fixed angle rotor at 2000 rpm (425rcf). Note that the nuclei sometimes smear up the side of the tube in the fixed angle rotor.
 - Transfer sup to new tube. For best results, clear at 14,000rpm for 15 min. & transfer sup to new tube = Cytoplasmic/membrane extract.
Save for PERK or IRE IP or eIF2 α & GADD34 western.
 - Wash/resuspend nuclear pellet in 500ul buffer A (optional) or harvest buffer.
 - Pellet at 1000rpm in swinging bucket rotor 5min 4C.
 - Remove and discard sup.
 - Add 4vol buffer C. (**For a more concentrated extract use 2 vol 2X buffer Cs.**)
 - Vortex 15min at 4C. (in cold room) Start on high speed vortex to loosen pellet,
then turn to medium.
 - Pellet at 14,000rpm 10min 4C. **For better recovery and clarity clear at 100,000g for 30min at 4C in a tabletop ultra (eg TLA100, or TLA55 in an Optima table top ultra centrifuge).**
 - Transfer sup to new tube. =Nuclear extract
- If nuclear extract will be used for functional assays such as gel shift (EMSA), then 10% glycerol should be added prior to freezing.

Measure protein concentrations of cytoplasmic and nuclear extracts.

Load ~40-50 μ g of nuclear extract for XBP , ATF4 and CHOP western (20 μ g is enough for many cell types, but loading more is better.)

Load 25-40 μ g of cytoplasmic extract for P-eIF2alpha western.

Use 500-1500 μ g of cytoplasmic extract for PERK or IRE IP-western.

(The more the better.)

For the fixed angle rotor we use the eppendorf 5417R centrifuge with a 30 slot rotor. Below are RPM/RCF equivalents for our common speeds:

RPM	RCF
14000	20817
7000	5204
3000	956
2000	425
1000	106

For the swinging bucket rotor (also eppendorf):

RPM	RCF
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1000 58
 1500 131
 2000 233

chemical	Mm Final	Formula	MW	mg/ml	g for 2L
tetrasodium pyrophosphate	10	Na ₄ P ₂ O ₇ · 10H ₂ O	446.06	4.5	8.9
NaF	100	NaF	41.99	4.2	8.4
β-Glycerophosphate	17.5	CH ₂ OHCH(OPO ₃ Na ₂) CH ₂ OH·5H ₂ O	306.11	5.4	10.7

Amt (mg) of powdered mix to add per ml

14.0

Notes*

1. Mix the powdered amounts for 2L in a 50 ml tube and store. When needed, weigh out 14mg/ml * the solution volume and mix. The made up solution is good at 4C for up to 1 month.

2. These chemicals are available in various hydration forms. Make sure to use the one indicated or recalculate