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LiFect293™ In Vitro DNA Transfection Reagent

Cat. #: M0002 Size: 1 ml/5 ml

Introduction:

LiFect293™ is an enhanced liposome-based DNA transfection reagent which is specifically formulated and optimized for mammalian cells with superior efficiency and less cytotoxicity. LiFect293™ reagent, 1.0 ml, is sufficient for 600 to 1200 transfections in 24 well plates or 300 to 600 transfections in 6 well plates.

Important Guidelines for Transfection:

- LiFect293™ reagent was formulated for DNA transfection ONLY! The following standard protocols are for transfecting mammalian cells. The protocols for lentivirus production and insect cell transfection can be downloaded from our website

- For better efficiency, choosing a correct protocol is essential. We strongly encourage to use "General Protocol" first. If the "General Protocol" fails to give satisfactory result (e.g., less than 10%), try the "Advanced Protocol" in the back page

- For high efficiency and lower toxicity, transfect cells at high density. 70~80% confluency is highly recommended

- To lower cytotoxicity, transfect cells in presence of serum (10%) and antibiotics

Part I. General Procedures for Transfecting Mammalian Cells

Step I. Cell Seeding

Cells should be plated 18 to 24 hours prior to transfection so that the monolayer cell density reaches to the optimal 70~80% confluency at the time of transfection. Complete culture medium with serum and antibiotics is freshly added to each well 30~60 minutes before transfection.

Table 1. Recommended Amounts for Different Culture Vessel Formats

Culture Dish	Culture Medium (ml)	Plasmid DNA (µg)	Diluent Volume (ml)	LiFect293™ Reagent (µl)
48 well plate	0.3	0.25	2 × 0.015	0.75
12 well plate	0.75	0.75	2 × 0.038	2.25
6-well/35 mm dish	1.0	1	2 × 0.05	3.0
60 mm dish	2.8	2.5	2 × 0.1	7.5
10 cm dish	5.0	5	2 × 0.25	15
T75 flask	8.0	9 - 18	2 × 0.4	27 - 54
250 ml flask	18	25 - 35	2 × 0.8	75 - 105

Note: For high efficiency and lower toxicity, high cell density (~80% confluency) is essential. High serum levels (>5%) usually do not have inhibitory effect on transfection efficiency.

Step II. Preparation of LiFect293™/DNA Complex and Transfection Procedures

For different cell types, the optimal ratio of LiFect293™ (µl):DNA (µg) is around 3:1. We recommend the LiFect293™ (µl):DNA (µg) ratio of 3:1 as a starting point which usually gives satisfactory transfection efficiency with invisible cytotoxicity. To ensure the optimal size of complex particles, we recommend using serum-free DMEM with High Glucose to dilute DNA and LiFect293™ Reagent.

The following protocol is given for transfection in 24-well plates, refer to **Table 1** for transfection in other culture formats. The optimal transfection conditions for a majority of adherent cell lines are given in the standard protocol described below.

- For each well, add 0.5 ml of complete medium with serum and antibiotics freshly 30~60 minutes before transfection.

- For each well, dilute 0.5 µg of DNA into 25 µl of serum-free DMEM with High Glucose. Gently pipette up and down 3~4 times to mix.

- For each well, dilute 1.5 µl of LiFect293™ reagent into 25 µl of serum-free DMEM with High Glucose. Gently pipette up and down 3~4 times to mix.

Note: Never use Opti-MEM to dilute LiFect293™ reagent and DNA, it will disrupt transfection complex.

- Add the diluted LiFect293™ reagent **immediately** to the diluted DNA solution all at once. (**Important: do not mix the solutions in the reverse order!**)

- Immediately pipette up and down 3~4 times or vortex briefly to mix followed by incubation for ~10 minutes at room temperature to allow DNA/LiFect293™ transfection complexes to form.

Note: Never keep the DNA/LiFect293™ complex longer than 20 minutes

- Add the 50 µl LiFect293™/DNA mixture drop-wise onto the medium in each well and homogenize the mixture by gently swirling the plate.

- Remove LiFect293™/DNA complex-containing medium and replace with complete serum/antibiotics containing medium 12~18 hours post transfection. **For sensitive cells, to lower cytotoxicity, remove LiFect293™/DNA complex and replace with complete medium 5 hours after transfection.**

- Check transfection efficiency 24 to 48 hours post transfection.

Storage: LiFect293™ In Vitro DNA Transfection Reagent is stable up to 12 months at 4°C.

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Part II. Advanced Protocol for Transfecting Hard-To-Transfect Mammalian Cells

Important: The advanced protocol for hard-to-transfect cells is provided only if general protocol fails to give satisfactory efficiency (e.g., less than 10% efficiency). For transfecting primary cells which cannot be trypsinized, go directly to Step II, skip trypsinization and incubate freshly prepared primary cell pellet with transfection complex.

Step I. Cell Seeding

Cells should be plated at least 24 hours prior to transfection so that the monolayer cell density reaches to the optimal 95~100% confluency at the day of transfection.

Table 2. A Guideline for Optimal Cell Number Per Well in Different Culture Formats

Culture Dishes	Surface Area (cm^2)	Optimal Cell Number
T75 Flask	75	9.6×10^6
100 mm Dish	58	7.3×10^6
60 mm Dish	21	2.7×10^6
35 mm Dish	9.6	1.2×10^6
6-well Plate	9.6	1.2×10^6
12-well Plate	3.5	0.44×10^6
24-well Plate	1.9	0.24×10^6
48-well Plate	1.0	0.11×10^6
96-well Plate	0.3	0.31×10^5

Table 3. Recommended Amounts for Different Culture Vessel Formats

Culture Dishes	Transfection Complex Volume (ml)	Plasmid DNA (µg)	LiFect293™ Reagent (µl)
96-well	0.02	0.2	0.8
48-well	0.04	0.5	2
24-well	0.1	1	4
6-well	0.2	2	8
35 mm dish	0.2	2	8
60 mm dish	0.5	5	20
10 cm dish	1.0	8	32
T75 flask	1.5	36	144

Step II. Preparation of Cells in Suspension

The following protocol is given for transfecting hard-to-transfect mammalian cells in 6-well plates, refer to **Table 2** for optimal cell number per well per culture vessels' surface area. The optimal transfection conditions for mammalian cells are given in the standard protocol described below.

- Detach the cells with trypsin/EDTA and stop the trypsinization with complete culture medium.

Note: Cells that are difficult to detach may be placed at 37°C for 5~15 min to facilitate detachment.

- Take an aliquot of trypsinized cell suspension and count the cells to determine the cell density.
- Centrifuge the required 1.2×10^6 cells per well for 6-well plate at 150×g at room temperature for 10 min.
- Use fine tip pipette to remove supernatant **completely** so that no residual medium covers the cell pellet.

Step III. Preparation and Application of Transfection Complex

For hard-to-transfect mammalian cells, the ptimal ratio of LiFect293™ (µl):DNA (µg) is 4:1. To ensure the optimal size of complex particles, we recommend using serum-free DMEM with High Glucose to dilute DNA and LiFect293™ Reagent.

The following protocol is given for transfection in 6-well plates, refer to **Table 3** for transfection in other culture formats.

- For each well of 6-well plate, dilute 2 µg of DNA into 100 µl of serum-free DMEM with High Glucose. Vortex gently and spin down briefly to bring drops to bottom of the tube.
- For each well of 6-well plate, dilute 8 µl of LiFect293™ reagent into 100 µl of serum-free DMEM with High Glucose. Vortex gently and spin down briefly.
- Add the diluted LiFect293™ reagent immediately to the diluted DNA solution all at once.
- Immediately pipette up and down 3~4 times or vortex briefly to mix followed by incubation for ~15 minutes at room temperature to allow DNA/LiFect293™ transfection complexes to form.

Important: Never keep the transfection complexes longer than 30 minutes

- **Gently** resuspend the cell pellet prepared from **Step II** immediately in the 200 µl transfection complex and incubate at 37°C for 15 minutes.
- At the end of incubation, add 2.0 ml of pre-warmed fresh complete cell growth medium to cells and plate onto one well of a 6-well plate.
- Remove transfection complex containing medium gently and refill with complete culture medium 12~18 hours after plating.
- Check efficiency 24~48 hours post transfection.