

TRYPAN BLUE STAINING

Dead cells stain blue, while live cells exclude trypan blue. Cannot distinguish necrotic vs. apoptotic cells.

Materials:

Trypan Blue: dilute at 0.8 mM in PBS. Store at room temperature. Stable for 1 month.

Procedure:

1. Trypsinize cells.
2. Mix cells 1:1 with trypan blue solution.
3. Count cells on hemocytometer.

Viable cells exclude trypan blue, while dead cells stain blue due to trypan blue uptake.

Comments:

Avoid the exposure of cells to trypan blue for a period longer than 30 minutes. In this case it is possible to observe an increase in the dead cell population (trypan blue positive) due to the trypan toxicity.

Submitted by: Sandy Westerheide