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Product Manual

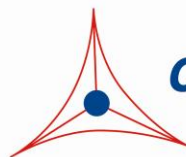
# CytoSelect™ 96-Well Cell Transformation Assay (Soft Agar Colony Formation)

## Catalog Number

CBA-130	96 assays
CBA-130-5	5 x 96 assays

**FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY**  
Not for use in diagnostic procedures

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**CELL BIOLABS, INC.**  
*Creating Solutions for Life Science Research*

## **Introduction**

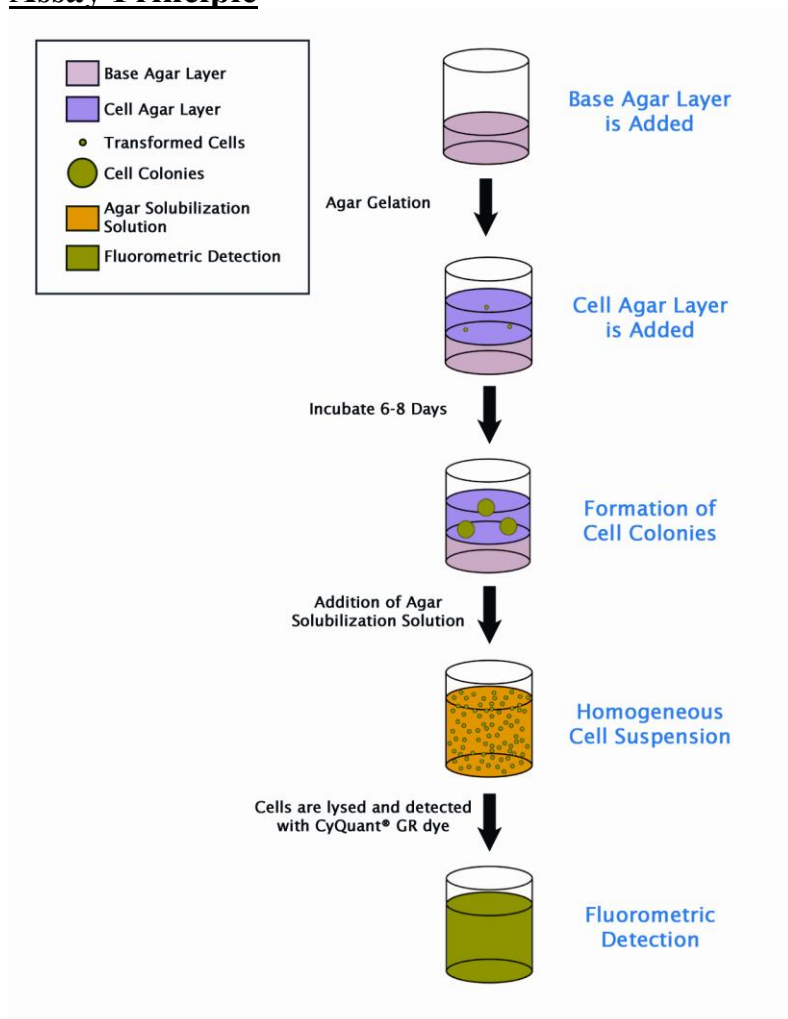
Neoplastic transformation occurs via a series of genetic and epigenetic alterations that yield a cell population that is capable of proliferating independently of both external and internal signals that normally restrain growth. For example, transformed cells show reduced requirements for extracellular growth promoting factors, are not restricted by cell-cell contact, and are often immortal. Anchorage-independent growth is one of the hallmarks of transformation, which is considered the most accurate and stringent in vitro assay for detecting malignant transformation of cells.

Traditionally, the soft agar colony formation assay is a common method to monitor anchorage-independent growth, which measures proliferation in a semisolid culture media after 3-4 weeks by manual counting of colonies. Standard soft agar assays are usually performed in 100-mm or 60 mm dishes, where cells are allowed to grow inside a semisolid culture media for 3-4 weeks before sizable colonies appear. This method is quite cumbersome, time-consuming, and difficult when testing a large number of samples. Additionally, the manual counting of colonies is highly subjective; with varying colony sizes, it's difficult to determine meaningful results.

Cell Biolabs CytoSelect™ 96-well Cell Transformation Assay does **not** involve subjective manual counting of colonies or require a 3–4-week incubation period. Instead, cells are incubated only 6-8 days in a semisolid agar media before being solubilized, lysed and detected by the patented CyQuant® GR Dye in a fluorescence plate reader (see Assay Principle below). This format provides a quantitative, high-throughput method to accurately measure cell transformation. Additionally, the short incubation time (6-8 days) makes it possible to assay cells transiently transfected with oncogenes or siRNA.

The CytoSelect™ 96-well Cell Transformation Kit provides a robust system for screening oncogenes and cell transformation inhibitors. Each kit provides sufficient quantities to perform 96 tests in a microtiter plate.

## Assay Principle



## Related Products

1. CBA-106-C: CytoSelect™ 96-Well Cell Migration and Invasion Assay (8µm, Fluorometric)
2. CBA-112: CytoSelect™ 96-Well Cell Invasion Assay (Basement Membrane, Fluorometric)
3. CBA-140: CytoSelect™ 96-Well Cell Transformation Assay (Cell Recovery, Fluorometric)
4. CBA-150: CytoSelect™ In Vitro Tumor Sensitivity Assay
5. CBA-320: CytoSelect™ 96-Well Hematopoietic Colony Forming Cell Assay

## Kit Components (shipped at room temperature)

1. CytoSelect™ Agar Powder (Part No. 113001): One 1.2 g bottle
2. 5X DMEM Medium (Part No. 113005): One 5 mL bottle
3. Agar Solubilization Solution (Part No. 113003): One 6 mL amber glass bottle
4. 8X Lysis Buffer (Part No. 113004): One 3 mL bottle
5. CyQuant GR Dye (Part No. 10103): One 25 µL tube

## **Materials Not Supplied**

1. Cells and Culture Medium
2. 1X PBS
3. 37°C Incubator, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> Atmosphere
4. Light Microscope
5. 96-well Fluorometer
6. Microwave or Heating Block
7. Water bath
8. (Optional) Positive Control cells such as NIH 3T3 (Ras G12V)

## **Storage**

Store all components at 4°C.

## **Preparation of Reagents**

- 1.2% Agar Solution: Place 1.2 g of Agar Powder in a sterile bottle, add 100 mL of sterile cell culture grade water. Microwave or boil until agar is completely dissolved.
- 2X DMEM/20% FBS Medium: In a sterile tube, dilute the provided 5X DMEM in sterile cell culture grade water to 2X containing 20% FBS. For example, to prepare a 5 mL solution, add 2 mL of 5X DMEM, 1 mL of FBS and 2 mL of sterile cell culture grade water. Sterile filter the 2X media to 0.2 µm.

*Note: You may substitute your own medium in place of the DMEM we provide, but ensure that it is at a 2X concentration.*

- CyQuant Working Solution: Immediately before use, prepare sufficient amount of the CyQuant Working Solution by diluting the CyQuant GR Dye 1:400 with 1X PBS. For example, add 10 µL to 4 mL of 1X PBS. Use the solution immediately; do not store the CyQuant Working Solution.

## **Assay Protocol (must be under sterile conditions)**

### **I. Preparation of Base Agar Layer**

1. Melt 1.2% Agar Solution in a microwave and cool to 37°C in a water bath.
2. Warm 2X DMEM/20% FBS medium to 37°C in a water bath. Allow at least 30 minutes for the temperature to equilibrate.
3. Mix equal volumes of 1.2% Agar Solution and 2X DMEM/20% FBS medium in a sterile, pre-warmed tube by inverting several times. Immediately transfer 50 µL of the mixture to each well of a 96-well sterile flat-bottom microplate. Gently tap the plate a few times to allow the agar solution to evenly cover the wells.

*Notes:*

- *Work quickly with the agar solution to avoid gelation. Also, try to avoid adding air bubbles to the well.*

- *To avoid fast and uneven evaporation that leads to aberrant results, we suggest not using the wells on the plate edge, or filling the edge wells with medium to reduce evaporation.*
4. Transfer the plate to 4°C for 30 minutes to allow the base agar layer to solidify.
  5. Prior to adding the Cell Agar Layer (Section II), allow the plate to warm up for 15 minutes at 37°C.

## II. Preparation of Cell Agar Layer (samples should be assayed in triplicate)

1. Melt 1.2% Agar Solution in a microwave and cool to 37°C in a water bath.
2. Warm 2X DMEM/20% FBS medium to 37°C in a water bath. Allow at least 30 minutes for the temperature to equilibrate.
3. Harvest and resuspend cells in culture medium at  $0.4 - 4 \times 10^5$  cells/mL, keep the cell suspension warm in a 37°C water bath.
4. Mix equal volumes of 1.2% Agar Solution, 2X DMEM/20% FBS media, and cell suspension (1:1:1) in a sterile, pre-warmed tube by inverting several times. Immediately transfer 75  $\mu$ L of the mixture to each well of the 96-well flat-bottom microplate already containing the solidified base agar layer (25  $\mu$ L of cell suspension containing 1000-10000 cells/well will be seeded).  
*Note: Work quickly with the agar solution to avoid gelation, but gently pipette as not to disrupt the base layer integrity. Also, try to avoid adding air bubbles to the well. Always include negative control wells that contain no cells in the cell agar layer.*
5. Transfer the plate to 4°C for 15 minutes to allow the cell agar layer to solidify.

## III. Quantitation of Anchorage-Independent Growth

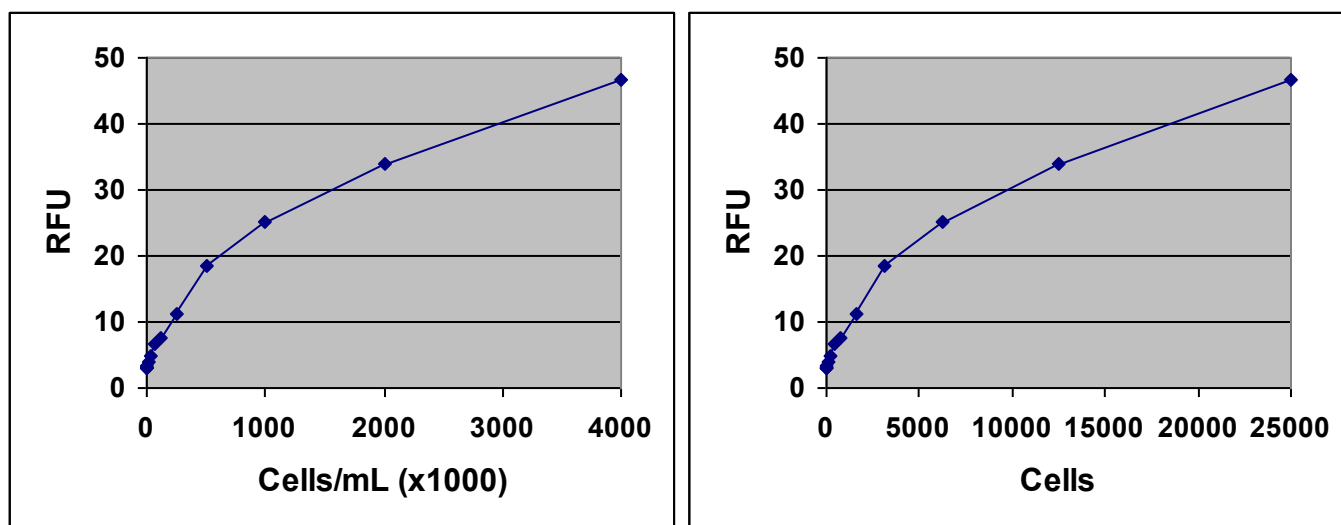
1. Add 100  $\mu$ L of culture medium containing cell growth activator(s) or inhibitor(s) to each well.
2. Incubate the cells for 6-8 days at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Examine the cell colony formation under a light microscope.
3. Remove culture medium by inverting the plate and blotting on paper towel. Gently tap several times.
4. Add 50  $\mu$ L of Agar Solubilization Solution to each well of the 96-well plate. Incubate for 1 hr at 37°C.
5. Pipette each well 5-10 times to ensure complete agar solubilization.
6. Add 25  $\mu$ L of 8X Lysis Buffer to each well. Pipette each well 5-10 times to ensure a homogeneous mixture.
7. Incubate the plate at room temperature for 15 minutes.
8. Transfer 10  $\mu$ L of the mixture to a 96-well plate suitable for fluorescence measurement.
9. Add 90  $\mu$ L of the CyQuant Working Solution to each well. Incubate 10 minutes at room temperature.
10. Read the plate in a 96-well fluorometer using a 485/520 nm filter set.

## Cell Dose Curve (optional)

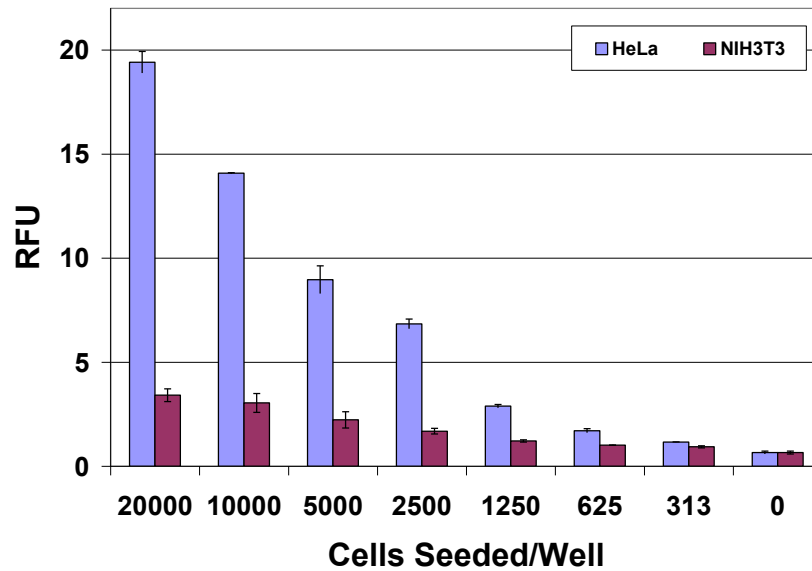
1. Harvest and resuspend cells in culture medium at  $1 - 5 \times 10^6$  cells/mL.
2. Prepare a serial of 2-fold dilution with culture medium, including a medium blank.
3. Transfer 125  $\mu$ L of each cell dilution to a microfuge tube. Add 50  $\mu$ L of Agar Solubilization Solution and 25  $\mu$ L of 8X Lysis Buffer to each tube. Vortex each tube to ensure a homogeneous mixture. Incubate the tubes at room temperature for 15 minutes.
4. Transfer 10  $\mu$ L of the mixture to a 96-well plate suitable for fluorescence measurement.
5. Add 90  $\mu$ L of the CyQuant Working Solution to each well. Incubate 10 minutes at room temperature.
6. Read the plate in a 96-well fluorometer using a 485/520 nm filter set.

## Example of Results

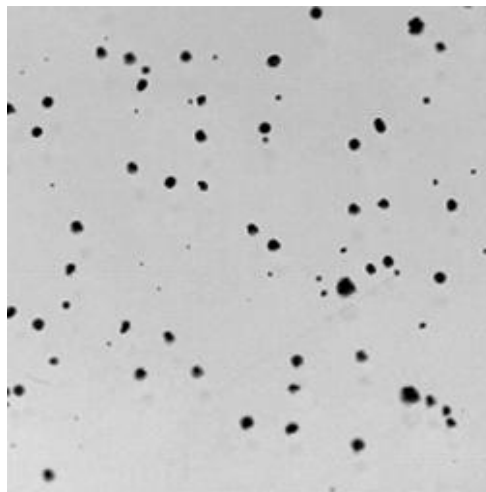
The following figures demonstrate typical results with the CytoSelect™ 96-well Cell Transformation Assay Kit. One should use the data below for reference only. This data should not be used to interpret actual results.



**Figure 1. HeLa Cell Dose Curve.** Cervical carcinoma HeLa cells were resuspended at  $4 \times 10^6$  cells/mL and titrated 1:2 in culture medium, followed by addition of Agar Solubilization Solution, Lysis Buffer, and Cyquant® GR Dye detection (as described in the Cell Dose Section). Results were shown by cell concentration or by actual cell number in CyQuant Detection.



**Figure 2. Anchorage-Independent Growth of HeLa Cells.** HeLa cells were seeded at various concentrations and cultured for 6 days. HeLa cell transformation is determined according to the assay protocol.



**Figure 3. HeLa Colony Formation.** HeLa cells were cultured for 14 days according to the assay protocol. Colonies were visualized by 0.1% p-iodonitro tetrazolium violet (INT) staining.

### Calculation of Anchorage-Independent Growth

1. Compare RFU values with the Cell Dose Curve and extrapolate the cell concentration in soft agar.
2. Calculate the Total Transformed Cell Number/Well  
**Total Transformed Cells/Well** = cells/mL in soft agar x 0.125 mL/well

For example: If you extrapolate your RFU value from your cell dose curve and determine you have 500,000 cells/mL in your soft agar sample.

**Total Transformed Cells/Well** = 500,000 cells/mL x 0.125 mL/well = 62,500 cells/well

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