Hello, my name is Dustin Strasburg. I am a Development Technologist for the Human Cellular Therapy Laboratory at Mayo Clinic. Welcome to this Pearl of Laboratory Medicine on the “Enumeration of CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells by Flow Cytometry.”

Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells or HPCs are used to reconstitute hematopoiesis following marrow-ablative therapies. Traditional colony-forming assays take 10-14 days and are thus irrelevant when immediate assessment of HPC products, such as apheresis, is necessary. Flow cytometry is used to enumerate CD34+ HPCs to quickly determine the potency of a collected HPC product. However, these cells are rare events which may be masked by nonspecific or interfering populations. Furthermore, various methodologies led to a wide range of recommended CD34 values needed for long-term engraftment.

In 1995, the International Society of Hematotherapy and Graft Engineering (ISHAGE) developed a simple and sensitive method that utilized the CD34 antigen and several other characteristics. By using only 4 parameters and sequential gating to minimize interference, this assay can be performed by most routine clinical flow cytometry laboratories.

The ISHAGE criteria for CD34+ HPCs include: expression the CD34 antigen, expression the CD45 antigen but characteristically at lower levels, low side scatter, and low to intermediate forward scatter. The scatter properties are similar to but slightly higher than small lymphocytes, which can be used as an aid in accurate gating.
Furthermore, a viability marker such as 7-amino actinomycin (or 7-AAD) allows for the exclusion of dead cells. The use of fluorescent counting beads with a known concentration is used to determine an absolute concentration of CD34+ HPCs.

**Slide 5:**

The first gate is set around the white blood cells which are CD45+. This gate excludes CD45-negative contaminants such as platelets, platelet aggregates, non-lysed red blood cells, and other debris. It should not to exclude CD45\textsubscript{dim} events as this would exclude potential HPCs prior to further analysis. A gate is also set around the lymphocyte cluster to be used later.

**Slide 6:**

Using the WBC events, a gate is set around all potential CD34+ events.

**Slide 7:**

Looking at only the CD34+ events, the target cell population can be identified more easily. A gate is placed around the cell cluster. This cluster exhibits lower CD45 expression than typical WBCs with low side scatter, similar to lymphocytes.

**Slide 8:**

Utilizing the scatter properties of lymphocytes gated earlier, a linked or mirrored gate is set around the HPC population. In this example, there are a large number of HPC events; however, many times this population is more diffuse and not as easily identified. Events falling within this gate exhibit all 4 parameters to be classified as CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells.

**Slide 9:**

Fluorescent beads can be assessed with any parameter. This example used the FL3 channel plotted across time to select the singlet beads. Exclusion of doublets is critical in accurate analysis of the bead concentration.

Events that meet the 4 ISHAGE parameters are then assessed for viability. Viable cells are able to exclude the dye and thus appear negative for the marker 7-AAD.

**Slide 10:**

To calculate the CD34+ HPC concentration, we take the ratio of viable CD34+ HPC events to the number of singlet bead events and multiply that by the CAL factor (or known bead concentration).

In this example, the sample or product would have 121.7 viable CD34 cells/μL.

**Slide 11:**
In summary, the ISHAGE protocol is a single-platform flow assay that determines the absolute concentration of viable CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells in a sample or product. This value can be used with the volume of product to determine the total CD34+ HPC content and further calculated to determine the dose per patient body weight of an HPC product.

Slide 12: References

Slide 13: Disclosures


Thank you for joining me on this Pearl of Laboratory Medicine on “Enumeration of CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells by Flow Cytometry.”
Enumeration of CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells by Flow Cytometry

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Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

DOI:
CD34+ HPC by Flow Cytometry

• Reconstitute long-term multilineage hematopoiesis following marrow-ablative therapies
• Flow cytometry used to quickly determine potency of HPC products
  • Colony-forming assays take 10-14 days
  • Rare events masked by interfering populations
• 1995: ISHAGE developed simple method
  • Utilize CD34 antigen characteristic of HPC
  • 4-parameters (light scatter and 2-color immunofluorescence)
  • Sequential gating minimizes interference of nonspecific staining
CD34+ HPC by Flow Cytometry

1) Express CD34 antigen
2) Express CD45 antigen like blasts
   • Positive but at low levels (i.e. CD45_{dim})
3) Low side scatter
4) Low to intermediate forward scatter
   • Slightly higher than small lymphocytes
CD34+ HPC by Flow Cytometry

• Viability marker (e.g. 7-AAD) allows the exclusion of dead cells
• Use of fluorescent counting beads to calculate absolute concentration (single-platform)
CD45 vs Side Scatter (Cellular events)

- Exclude contaminants such as platelets/aggregates, non-lysed RBCs and other debris
- Exclude CD45 negative events while taking care not to exclude HPCs which are CD45_{dim}
- Identify lymphocyte cluster (L) to be used later
CD34 vs Side Scatter (WBC events)

- Used to include all potential CD34+ cells
CD45 vs Side Scatter (CD34+ events)

- Identify the HPC cell cluster
- Lower CD45 expression than typical WBC
- Low Side Scatter, similar to Lymphocytes
Forward vs Side Scatter (Top: Lymphocytes) (Bottom: CD34 cell cluster)

- Use Lymphocyte gate as a guide
- Mirrored HPC gate excludes platelets/aggregates that may stain positively CD45/CD34
- Events in this gate meet all 4 parameters to be classified as CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells
Time vs FL3 (Bead events)

- Select singlet bead events
- Ratio of bead to cell events used to calculate concentration

7-AAD vs Side Scatter (HPC events)

- Viable cells exclude the dye and appear negative for the marker
Calculation of CD34+ HPC Concentration

\[ \frac{\text{# of viable HPC events}}{\text{# of singlet bead events}} \times \text{CAL factor} \]

Example:

\[ \frac{564 \text{ (viable CD34 cells)} \times 1026 \text{ (beads/uL)}}{4,755 \text{ (beads)}} \]

\[ = 121.70 \text{ viable CD34 cells/uL} \]

NOTE: Multiply result by any dilution factor
Summary

• ISHAGE protocol is a single-platform flow assay that determines the absolute concentration of viable CD34+ HPCs in a sample or product
  • Calculation of HPC content in a product
  • Calculation of HPC dose per patient body weight
References


Please provide full citations for your references in style with Journal format as explained here:
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- Stock Ownership:
- Honoraria:
- Research Funding:
- Expert Testimony:
- Patents:

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<th>Instructions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Write one question. Refer to Guide for Presenters for guidance (Page 5)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Responses</td>
<td>Provide 5 responses. Refer to Guide for Presenters for guidance (Page 5)</td>
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<td>Answer</td>
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