

# Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain™ PreKit

Simple Solution for Your Research

# (Prepare Solution Kit)

[Catalog Number: HTKNS1125NH]

An easy to use Golgi-Cox staining system for the morphological characterization of the neurons and glia cells

## User Manual and Material Safety Data Sheet

FOR IN VITRO RESEARCH USE ONLY

Hitobiotec Corp.



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## I. Introduction

Golgi-Cox impregnation<sup>1-2</sup> or Golgi staining has been recoanized as one of the most elegant and effective procedures for studying the morphology of neurons as well as glia. In recent years the Golgi-Cox staining method remains as a primary technique for visualization of the dendritic branching pattern and dendritic spines, because it allows isolation and visualization of the dendritic arbours from a minor random fraction of the neurons in a certain brain area<sup>3-5</sup>. Accordingly, Golgi techniques are not only useful for pure anatomical studies, but are also widely used in studies examining behavioral-morphological relationships <sup>3,6</sup>. In some studies, the Golgi-Cox method has been used to identify and study the autonomic innervations in the heart and the results show that the Golgi-Cox method is an attainable and useful tool to identify and study the morphological characteristics of the autonomic innervations in peripheral tissues<sup>7</sup>. However, the Golgi-Cox staining procedure is time-consuming, the yield of stained cells is usually low and the results are often unreliable.

Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain<sup>™</sup> Kit offers a simple solution to these problems. Designed based on the methods described by Glaser and Van der Loos<sup>8</sup>, this kit makes dramatic improvement of the Golgi-Cox technique. The procedures are simplified and the processing time is greatly reduced. This kit delivers stable and improved staining quality, with minimal overstains and artifacts when used properly.

Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain<sup>™</sup> Kit has been tested on the brains, spinal cords and hearts from several species of animals and proven to be sensitive for demonstrating morphological details of neurons and glia. For photo samples, please visit our web site at www.hitobiotec.com

## **II. Kit Contents**

### Store Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain™ PreKit at room temperature

Kit Contents	Standard Kit	Small Kit
Solution-1B (Prepare Solution)	250 ml	125 ml
Solution-2	250 ml	125 ml
Solution-3	500 ml	250 ml
Solution-4	250 ml	125 ml
Solution-5	250 ml	125 ml
Dropping Bottle (30 ml)	1	1
User Manual and MSDS	1	1

## 🗐 Note

Before using Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain<sup>™</sup> PreKit, please make sure you have the following **Required Equipment / Materials** in your lab (not included in the kit):

- 1. Mercury (II) chloride and Potassium dichromate
- Cryostat (capable of cutting 80- to 200-µm thick sections at -19°C) or vibratome.
- 3. Dry ice, O.C.T. compound, isopentane, ethanol, xylene, double distilled or deionized water
- 4. Plastic/glass tubes or vials
- 5. Gelatin-coated slides (recommend Hito Dual-Safe Gelatin-coated Slide Cat# HTHS0102) and coverslips
- 6. Staining jars
- 7. Fine Tip Natural Hair Brush
- 8. Glass Specimen Transfer Tool
- 9. Resinous mounting medium and Light microscope

## **III. Solution-1 Preparation**

Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain<sup>™</sup> Kit Solution-1 is designed to contain reagents that are toxic and harmful. However, shipping hazardous materials internationally comes with high cost and long waiting time for customs clearance. This PreKit is designed for customers who can purchase two toxic chemicals - <u>Mercury (II) chloride</u> and <u>Potassium dichromate</u> in their own countries, and then add to the PreKit (Solution-1 Prepare Solution) for fast and safe usage of the kit.

Upon receiving of the PreKit, under a chemical hood, **carefully** weigh x g\* <u>Mercury (II) chloride</u> (CAS# 7487-94-7, ACS Grade) and x g\* <u>Potassium dichromate</u> (CAS# 7778 -50-9, ACS Grade). **Very carefully** transfer both chemicals into the Prepare Solution, tightly close the bottle, shake vigorously until the chemicals dissolved completely. Check the boxes for both chemicals on Solution-1 bottle label so it is clear that the bottle contains toxic materials now.

\* The numbers for chemical weight will not be shown in the downloaded manual. The numbers are available in the hard copy of user manual in the kit.



The mixture solution is referred to as <u>Solution-1</u> in the subsequent sections in this user manual.

## **IV. Impregnation Solution Preparation**

- 1. Clean all containers, then rinse with distilled water. Do not use metal instruments.
- 2. Mix an equal volume of Solution-1 and -2 (e.g. mix one part Solution-1 and one part Solution-2) in a clean glass or plastic container. Keep the container tightly closed.
- 3. Do not stir the solution mixture. Store at room temperature in the dark (e.g. wrapped with aluminum foil) for **at least 24 hours** before use, and for use within one month.
- 4. Using the supernatant of the mixed solution (precipitate free) for the impregnation.
- 5. The volume of the impregnation solution should be at least **five times** that of the tissue (e.g. 5 ml or more of the impregnation solution for 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of the tissue).

# 🚹 Warning

- The kit contains reagents that are toxic and harmful in case of ingestion, inhalation, skin or eye contact. Perform experiment under a chemical hood and wear protective clothing, gloves, goggles, face shield or safety glasses while handling kit reagents. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling.
- IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth with water and immediately call a doctor or Poison Control Center.
- IF ON SKIN OR IN EYES: Wash immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
- IF INHALED: Move person to fresh air and call a doctor or Poison Control Center for further treatment advice.
- Never pour the waste of Solution-1 and -2 into the sink. Collect the waste solutions in a tightly closed glass or HDPE container and call your safety administration or a licensed professional waste disposal service to dispose of this material.
- For more information, please read the MSDS.

## V. Tissue Preparation (Standard Protocol)

- 1. Prepare animal for infusion by administering a lethal dose of anesthesia. Monitor it until the point when the animal fails to respond to pinching of the foot.
- Do not perfuse with buffer or fixative. Remove the tissue (brain, spinal cord or heart) as soon as possible. Handle with care and avoid damage of the tissue. Large specimens should be sliced with a sharp blade into blocks of approximately 10 mm thickness.
- 3. Rinse tissue in <u>double distilled water</u> for 2-3 seconds to remove blood from the surface.
- 4. Transfer tissue into the impregnation solution that is at least five times the volume of the tissue and store at room temperature in the dark.
- Replace the impregnation solution on next day (after 12 -24 hours), and store at room temperature (20 25°C) for two weeks in the dark. To avoid non-specific staining, do not extend the impregnation time.
- Transfer tissue into Solution-3 that is at least five times the volume of the tissue. Store at 4°C in the dark. Replace Solution-3 after 12 hours, and continue to store at 4°C in the dark for 24 to 72 hours.
- Place ~300 to 500 ml isopentane in a metal container large enough to hold a corresponding sieve-like basket. Place the metal container with the isopentane in dry ice for 15 to 30 min, until the temperature of the isopentane reaches -70°C.
- 8. Place the tissue on the mesh bottom of the sieve-like basket in a manner that preserves the normal shape of the tissue.
- 9. Slowly immerse the basket with the tissue in the cooled isopentane for 30 sec. to 1 min. (The time of immersion is absolutely critical; it must be long enough to result in complete freezing of the tissue, but not so long that the tissue cracks. It may be necessary to test various times to determine the optimal time).

- 10. Rapidly remove the basket with the frozen tissue from isopentane, detach the tissue from the mesh, and place it briefly on absorbent paper in dry ice box to remove excess isopentane.
- 11. Wrap the dried, frozen tissue in aluminum foil and store at -70°C until sectioning is performed.
- 12. Set the cryostat chamber temperature at -19°C.
- 13. Place specimen holder/cryostat chuck on dry ice and add embedding matrix or distilled water on the surface of the specimen holder/chuck. As the embedding matrix or water begins to freeze, place the frozen tissue into it so that the tissue adheres to the specimen holder / chuck. Pour embedding matrix over the frozen tissue to provide a thin coat that aids in maintaining the integrity of the tissue sections during cutting.
- 14. Slowly cut the tissue into sections (80-200  $\mu$ m thickness) on a cryostat with the chamber temperature set at -19°C.
- 15. Add a few drops of Solution-3 to a gelatin-coated slide with a dropping bottle. Using a Glass Specimen Transfer Tool or Fine Tip Natural Hair Brush, transfer sections from the specimen holder /chuck to a gelatincoated slide.
- 16. Using the edge of a filter paper strip, remove excess Solution-3. Air dry slides (over night) at room temperature in the dark.
- 17. Dried sections should be processed as soon as possible, but may be stored at room temperature for up to three days in the dark. \*\*

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## Note

\* The -19°C setting is satisfactory in most cases, but may need optimization for different cryostat and tissue types in order to cut sections smoothly and maintain integrity of the sections.

\*\* Don't store the sections for a long time, black crystalline background will appear.

## VI. Tissue Preparation (Vibratome Protocol)

- 1. Prepare animal for infusion by administering a lethal dose of anesthesia. Monitor it until the point when the animal fails to respond to pinching of the foot.
- Do not perfuse with buffer or fixative. Remove the tissue (brain, spinal cord or heart) as soon as possible. Handle with care and avoid damage of the tissue. Large specimens should be sliced with a sharp blade into blocks of approximately 10 mm thickness.
- 3. Rinse tissue in <u>double distilled water</u> for 2-3 seconds to remove blood from the surface.
- 4. Transfer tissue into the impregnation solution that is at least five times the volume of the tissue and store at room temperature in the dark.
- Replace the impregnation solution on next day (after 12 -24 hours), and store at room temperature (20 25°C) for two weeks in the dark. To avoid non-specific staining, do not extend the impregnation time.
- Transfer tissue into Solution-3 that is at least five times the volume of the tissue. Store at 4°C in the dark. Replace Solution-3 after 12 hours, and continue to store at 4°C in the dark for 24 to 72 hours.
- Embed the tissue in low gelling temperature agarose. Cut vibratome sections at 80-200 um thickness into <u>double distilled water</u>. Using a Fine Tip Natural Hair Brush, mount the floating sections onto gelatin-coated slides.
- 8. Add a few drops of Solution-3 to mounted sections with a dropping bottle, wait for 1-2 minutes, using the edge of a filter paper strip, remove excess Solution-3. Air dry slides (over night) at room temperature in the dark.
- 9. Dried sections should be processed as soon as possible, but may be stored at room temperature for up to three days in the dark. \*\*

## VII. Staining Procedure

- 1. Rinse slides in distilled water 2 times, 3 minutes each.
- 2. Mix one part Solution-4, one part Solution-5 and three part double distilled water (e.g. 5 ml Solution-4, 5 ml Solution-5 and 15 ml double distilled water) in a staining jar, then place slides in the solution mixture. Close the staining jar and wait for 10 minutes.
- 3. Rinse slides in distilled water 2 times, 4 minutes each (distilled water should be renewed frequently).
- 4. Counterstain sections with cresyl violet (optional step).
- 5. Dehydrate slides which was previously rinsed with distilled water in 50%, 75% and 95% ethanol, 5 minutes each.
- 6. Dehydrate slides in 100% ethanol, 3 times, 5 minutes each.
- 7. Clear in xylene, 2 times, 5 minutes each, and apply coverslip over sections using **undiluted** xylene based resinous mounting medium.
- 8. Allow to dry. The slide can be viewed after drying by bright field microscopy.

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## Note

If you do not have a cryostat or vibratome, processed tissue can be prepared as paraffin sections with microtome as an alternative option.

(see VIII. Alternative Protocol for Microtome).

## VIII. Alternative Protocol for Microtome

- 1. Prepare animal for infusion by administering a lethal dose of anesthesia. Monitor it until the point when the animal fails to respond to pinching of the foot.
- Do not perfuse with buffer or fixative. Remove the tissue (brain, spinal cord or heart) as soon as possible. Handle with care and avoid damage of the tissue. Large specimens should be sliced with a sharp blade into blocks of approximately 10 mm thickness.
- 3. Rinse tissue in <u>double distilled water</u> for 2-3 seconds to remove blood from the surface.
- 4. Transfer tissue into the mixed impregnation solution that is at least five times the volume of the tissue and store at room temperature in the dark.
- Replace the impregnation solution on next day (after 12 -24 hours), and store at room temperature (20 25°C) for two weeks in the dark. To avoid non-specific staining, do not extend the impregnation time.
- Transfer tissue into Solution-3 that is at least five times the volume of the tissue. Store at 4°C in the dark. Replace Solution-3 after 24 hours, and continue to store at 4°C in the dark for 2-3 days.
- 7. After 2-3 days processing in Solution-3, transfer the tissue into a new vial and wash the tissue with double distilled water over night at room temperature.
- 8. After water rinse, dehydrate the tissue in a graded ethanol/water series at room temperature. Clear tissue in chloroform for 12-24 hours. Process tissues in paraffin for 2-4 hours, preferably in a vacuum oven. Embed tissues in paraffin blocks (recommend paraffin with a lower melting point).

## 🖹 Note

Xylene can also be used as the clearing agent. The tissues cleared by chloroform will be softer and thus easier to cut. Using xylene as the clearing agent sometimes can lead to cracks of tissue sections.

- 9. Turn on the water bath and set the temperature at 45-50°C. Use fresh deionized water. Insert the paraffin block into the microtome chuck. Set the dial to cut 50-80 µm sections. Cut sections very slowly and pick them up with forceps or a fine paint brush and float them on the surface of the water bath. Float the sections onto the surface of gelatin-coated slides.
- 10. Drain slides upright and dry at 37°C for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- Place the slides with paraffin sections in a 60°C oven for 2 hours (preferably overnight) to bond the tissue to the glass. Slides can be stored in a slide box at room temperature for <u>three</u> months.
- 12. Deparaffinize sections in xylene, 3 times, 5 minutes each.
- 13. Rehydrate sections in 100%, 95%, 70% and 50% ethanol 2 times, 5 minutes each.
- 14. Rinse slides in distilled water 3 times, 3 minutes each.
- 15. Mix one part Solution-4, one part Solution-5 and three part double distilled water (e.g. 5 ml Solution-4, 5 ml Solution-5 and 15 ml double distilled water) in a staining jar, then place slides in the solution mixture. Close the staining jar and wait for 10 minutes.
- 16. Rinse slides in distilled water 2 times, 4 minutes each (distilled water should be renewed frequently).
- 17. Counterstain sections with cresyl violet (optional step).
- 18. Dehydrate slides which was previously rinsed with distilled water, in 50%, 75% and 95% ethanol, 5 minutes each.
- 19. Dehydrate slides in 100% ethanol, 3 times, 5 minutes each.
- 20. Clear in xylene, 2 times, 5 minutes each, and apply coverslip over sections using **undiluted** xylene based resinous mounting medium.
- 21. Allow to dry. The slides can be viewed after drying by bright field microscopy.

## IX. Special Notes

## A: For Using PFA-fixed Tissue

If PFA-fixed or formaldehyde-fixed tissues are used, the tissues need to be placed under running tap water for at least 24 hours, followed by at least another 24 hours of immersion in distilled water. Transfer tissue into the impregnation solution and follow Tissue Preparation protocol from step 4.

Staining quality is satisfactory for demonstrating dendritic branching pattern and dendritic spines. Glia cells can also be stained. Compared to the fresh tissues, PFA-fixed tissues or formaldehyde-fixed tissues have stained glia cells which contribute to higher background.

Though we do not recommend using fixed tissues, this staining kit provides an alternative approach to do research with fixed pathological samples.

### **B:** For Freezing Tissues

The steps 7 - 11 in the standard Tissue Preparation (Section V, pages 6 - 7) can be simplified by using the following procedure:

After removing the tissues from Solution-3, place the tissues on aluminum foil or in an embedding mold and fill the mold with O.C.T. Allow the tissues to freeze in a refrigerator at -70°C or -80°C for 15 to 30 minutes. Wrap the dried, frozen tissue in aluminum foil and store at -70°C until sectioning is performed.

## X. References

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- 3. Pilati, N., Barker, M., Panteleimonitis, S., Donga, R. & Hamann, M. A rapid method combining Golgi and Nissl staining to study neuronal morphology and cytoarchitecture. J Histochem Cytochem 56, 539-550, doi:jhc.2008.950246 [pii] 10.1369/jhc.2008.950246 (2008).
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- Gibb, R. & Kolb, B. A method for vibratome sectioning of Golgi-Cox stained whole rat brain. J Neurosci Methods 79, 1-4, doi:S0165027097001635 [pii] (1998).
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- Glaser, E. M. & Van der Loos, H. Analysis of thick brain sections by obverse-reverse computer microscopy: application of a new, high clarity Golgi-Nissl stain. J Neurosci Methods 4, 117-125, doi:0165-0270(81)90045 -5 [pii] (1981).

## XI. Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

### Date Updated: 10/1/2023 Version 1.4

### 1. Product and Company Information

Product Name	Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain™ PreKit (Prepare Solution Kit)
Product Number	HTKNS1125NH
Brand	Hitobiotec
Company Address	Hitobiotec Corp. P.O.Box 7528 Kingsport, TN 37664 USA
Technical Phone:	423-520-6880
Emergency Phone:	423-520-6880

### 2. Composition and Information on Ingredient

Substance Name	CAS #	SARA 313
Hito Golgi-Cox OptimStain™ PreKit (Prepare Solution Kit)	None	No
Ingredient Name	CAS #	SARA 313
WATER	7732-18-5	No

### 3. Hazards Identification

#### EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

The Prekit is non hazardous by itself. After users adding the toxic materials (mercury chloride and potassium chromate), the kit is toxic and dangerous for the environment. Harmful by inhalation or in contact with skin or eyes. May be fatal if swallowed or absorbed through skin. Possible risk of irreversible damage to skin, mucous membranes, eyes, blood, kidneys and digestive, respiratory, reproductive and central nervous systems.

#### HMIS RATING (before addition of Mercury (II) chloride)

HEALTH: 1	FLAMMABILITY: 0	REACTIVITY: 0
NFPA RATING		
HEALTH: 1	FLAMMABILITY: 0	REACTIVITY: 0

#### HMIS RATING (after addition of Mercury (II) chloride)

HEALTH: 3	FLAMMABILITY: 0	REACTIVITY: 0
NFPA RATING		

HEALTH: 3 FLAMMABILITY: 0 REACTIVITY: 0

#### **Potential Health Effects**

Inhalation	May be fatal if inhaled. Material is extremely destructive to the tissue of the mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract.
Skin	Causes skin burns, skin irritation. May be fatal if absorbed through skin.
Eyes	Causes eye burns, eye irritation.
Ingestion	Toxic if swallowed. May be fatal if swallowed. Causes burns.

### 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

#### General advice

Consult a physician. Show this safety data sheet to the doctor in attendance. Move out of dangerous area.

#### If inhaled

If breathed in, move person into fresh air. If not breathing give artificial respiration

#### In case of skin contact

Take off contaminated clothing and shoes immediately. Wash off with soap and plenty of water. Consult a physician.

#### In case of eye contact

Continue rinsing eyes during transport to hospital. Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes and consult a physician.

#### If swallowed

Do NOT induce vomiting. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Rinse mouth with water. Consult a physician.

### 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

#### Flammable properties

Flash point no data available

Ignition temperature no data available

#### Suitable extinguishing media

Use water spray, alcohol-resistant form, dry chemical or carbon dioxide.

#### Special protective equipment for fire-fighters

Wear self contained breathing apparatus for fire fighting if necessary.

## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

#### Personal precautions

Use personal protective equipment. Avoid dust formation. Avoid breathing dust. Ensure adequate ventilation. Evacuate personnel to safe areas.

#### **Environmental precautions**

Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so. Do not let product enter drains. Discharge into the environment must be avoided.

#### Methods for cleaning up

Pick up and arrange disposal without creating dust. Keep in suitable, closed containers for disposal.

### 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

#### Handling

Perform experiment in a properly functioning chemical hood, which is vented to the outside. Wear glasses and disposable gloves while handling kit reagents. Wash hands thoroughly after performing the test.

#### Storage

Keep container tightly closed in a dry and well-ventilated place. Store at room temperature, preferably in a cool place.

### 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

Contains no substances with occupational exposure limit values.

#### Personal protective equipment

#### **Respiratory protection**

Where risk assessment shows air-purifying respirators are appropriate use a fullface respirator with multipurpose combination (US) or type ABEK (EN 14387) respirator cartridges as a backup to engineering controls. If the respirator is the sole means of protection, use a full-face supplied air respirator. Use respirators and components tested and approved under appropriate government standards such as NIOSH (US) or CEN (EU).

#### Hand protection

Handle with gloves.

#### Eye protection

Safety glasses with side-shields conforming to EN166

#### Hygiene measures

Avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing. Wash hands before breaks and immediately after handling the product.

### 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

#### Appearance

Form	liquid	
Safety data		
рН	no data available	
Melting point	no data available	
Boiling point	no data available	
Flash point	no data available	
Ignition temperature	no data available	
Lower explosion limit	no data available	
Upper explosion limit	no data available	
Water solubility	no data available	

### **10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY**

#### Storage stability

Stable under recommended storage conditions. Avoid Light.

#### Materials to avoid

Strong oxidizing agents, metals

#### Hazardous decomposition products

Hazardous decomposition products formed under fire conditions. - Hydrogen chloride gas, Mercury/mercury oxides, Potassium oxides, Chromium oxides.

## **11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Acute toxicity	Refer to component MSDS	
Irritation and corrosion	Refer to component MSDS	
Sensitisation	Refer to component MSDS	
Signs and Symptoms of Exposure		
no data available		
Potential Health Effects		
Inhalation	May be fatal if inhaled. Material is extremely destruc- tive to the tissue of the mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract.	
Skin	Causes skin burns, skin irritation. May be fatal if ab- sorbed through skin.	
Eyes	Causes eye burns, eye irritation.	
Ingestion	Toxic if swallowed. May be fatal if swallowed. Causes burns.	

### 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

#### Elimination information (persistence and degradability)

Refer to component MSDS

#### Ecotoxicity effects

Refer to component MSDS

#### Further information on ecology

Refer to component MSDS

### 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### Product

Observe all federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Contact a licensed professional waste disposal service to dispose of this material.

#### Contaminated packaging

Dispose of as unused product.

### **14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

#### DOT (US)

Not dangerous goods

#### IMDG

Not dangerous goods

#### ΙΑΤΑ

Not dangerous goods

### **15. OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Further information**

The above information is believed to be correct but does not purport to be all inclusive and shall be used only as a guide. The information in this document is based on the present state of our knowledge and is applicable to the product with regard to appropriate safety precautions. It does not represent any guarantee of the properties of the product. Hitobiotech, Inc., shall not be held liable for any damage resulting from handling or from contact with the above product. See Terms & Conditions page on our website for additional terms and conditions of sale.

## Hitobiotec Corp.

P.O.Box 7528 Kingsport, TN 37664 USA

Phone: 423-520-6880

Email: info@hitobiotec.com

www.hitobiotec.com



