

cellenONE[®]: Unparalleled clonal outgrowth achieved in 96, 384 and 1536 Microtiter Plates

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Abstract

The main challenges associated with cell line development are maintaining high cell viability and ensuring monoclonality of isolated cells. Unlike flow cell sorters, which induce high stress and compromise cell viabilities, automated cloning using cellenONE[®] is a gentle and precise method to achieve unparalleled clonal recoveries in standard (96 MTP) and high density (384 and 1536 MTP) substrates. This is demonstrated with CHO cells, one of the most common cell lines used in recombinant therapeutic proteins manufacturing.

Materials and methods

CHO cells were passaged two days before isolation and cultured under standard conditions (DMEM/F12 with 10% FBS and Penicillin, Streptomycin, Amphotericin-B at 37°C in 5% CO₂). Prior to cloning, cells were washed twice with PBS, detached from their culture plates (0.5 mL trypsin for 1 min at 37°C), centrifuged (250g for 5 min at 4°C) and resuspended in PBS (200 cells/μL). The cell suspension was stored on ice and diluted to 100 cells/μL in degassed PBS immediately before cloning. Target plates were pre-filled with media (200 μL/well for 96 Microtiter Plates (MTP); 90 μL/well for 384 MTP and 12 μL/well for 1536 MTP), equilibrated at 4°C then transferred onto cellenONE[®]'s target holder pre-cooled to 2°C. Using cellenONE[®] X1, single cell isolation (Figure 1) was completed in approximately 4 min for 96, 12 min for 384 and 46 min 1536 MTP, respectively. The plates were then cultured under standard conditions for 14, 7 and 7 days for 96, 384 and 1536 MTP (Figure 3), respectively. Plates were imaged using an automated microscope (Zeiss Observer Z1) and each well was inspected for the presence of single, multiple or no colonies.

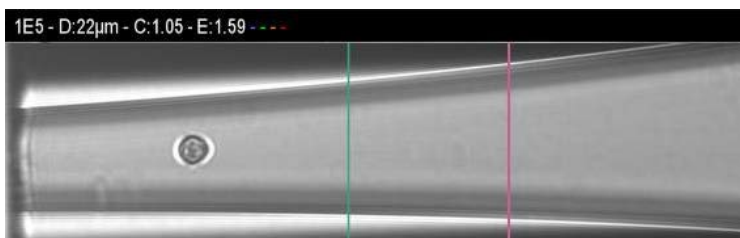


Figure 1. Image of an isolated CHO clone in cellenONE's dispensing capillary, with corresponding cell measurements (diameter, circularity, elongation) and culture well location.



Results and discussion

The number of wells containing single CHO colonies were counted for each plate (six 96 MTP, four 384 MTP and one 1536 MTP) and the percent of wells containing single colonies was calculated (Figure 2). Outstanding clonal recoveries were observed with 96%, 94% and 94% of wells containing single colonies in 96, 384 and 1536 MTP, respectively (Figure 2).

Additionally, the remaining wells were empty and did not contain multiple colonies. To our knowledge, this is the first time such high clonal recoveries have been demonstrated with CHO cells in both standard (96 MTP) and very high density (384, 1536 MTP) substrates.

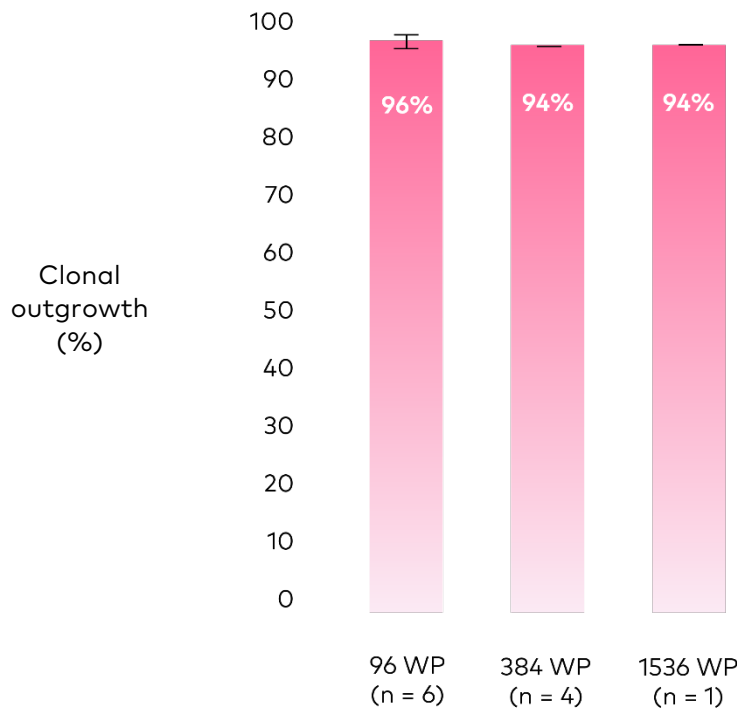


Figure 2. Clonal outgrowth in 96, 384 and 1536 MTP after 14, 7 and 7 days of culture, respectively.



Conclusion

This experiment demonstrates the cellenONE® as an ideal platform for undertaking automated cloning in both standard and high density substrates as it ensures monoclonality while maintaining outstanding clonal outgrowth.

Compatibility with high density substrates offers a dramatic increase in throughput to automatically process the equivalent of 16 individual 96 MTP in under an hour leaving personnel free to perform fewer routine tasks.

In addition to saving time, one can save on consumables and expensive reagents while ensuring documentation and monoclonality of all isolated cells.

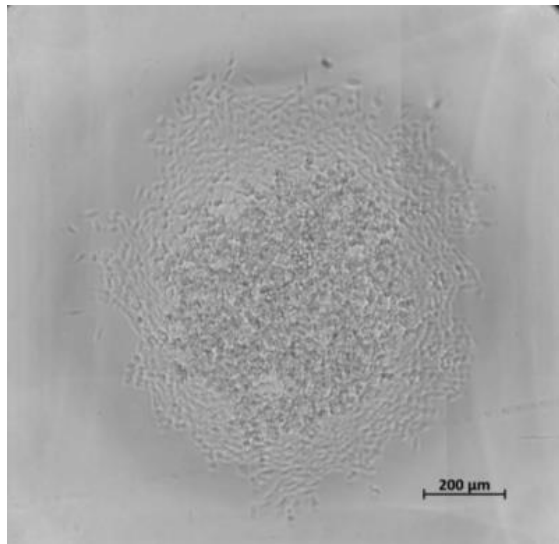


Figure 3. Example of a colony after 7 days of culture in a well of a 1536 MTP.

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