

Technical Data Sheet

PE Annexin V

Product Information

Material Number:	556422
Size:	100 tests
Vol. per Test:	5 µl
Storage Buffer:	Aqueous buffered solution containing BSA and ≤0.09% sodium azide.

Description

Apoptosis is a normal physiologic process which occurs during embryonic development as well as in maintenance of tissue homeostasis. The apoptotic program is characterized by certain morphologic features, including loss of plasma membrane asymmetry and attachment, condensation of the cytoplasm and nucleus, and internucleosomal cleavage of DNA. Loss of plasma membrane is one of the earliest features. In apoptotic cells, the membrane phospholipid phosphatidylserine (PS) is translocated from the inner to the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane, thereby exposing PS to the external cellular environment. Annexin V is a 35-36 kDa Ca²⁺ dependent phospholipid-binding protein that has a high affinity for PS, and binds to cells with exposed PS. Annexin V may be conjugated to fluorochromes including phycoerythrin (PE). This format retains its high affinity for PS and thus serves as a sensitive probe for flow cytometric analysis of cells that are undergoing apoptosis. Since externalization of PS occurs in the earlier stages of apoptosis, PE Annexin V staining can identify apoptosis at an earlier stage than assays based on nuclear changes such as DNA fragmentation.

PE Annexin V staining precedes the loss of membrane integrity which accompanies the latest stages of cell death resulting from either apoptotic or necrotic processes. Therefore, staining with PE Annexin V is typically used in conjunction with a vital dye such as 7-Amino-Actinomycin (7-AAD) to allow the investigator to identify early apoptotic cells (7-AAD negative, PE Annexin V positive). Viable cells with intact membranes exclude 7-AAD, whereas the membranes of dead and damaged cells are permeable to 7-AAD. For example, cells that are considered viable are both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD negative while cells that are in early apoptosis are PE Annexin V positive and 7-AAD negative, while cells that are in late apoptosis or already dead are both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD positive. This assay does not distinguish between cells that have undergone apoptotic death versus those that have died as a result of a necrotic pathway because in either case, the dead cells will stain with both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD. However, when apoptosis is measured over time, cells can be often tracked from PE Annexin V and 7-AAD negative (viable, or no measurable apoptosis), to PE Annexin V positive and 7-AAD negative (early apoptosis, membrane integrity is present) and finally to PE Annexin V and 7-AAD positive (end stage apoptosis and death). The movement of cells through these three stages suggests apoptosis. In contrast, a single observation indicating that cells are both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD positive, in of itself, reveals less information about the process by which the cells underwent their demise.

PE Annexin V is routinely tested by flow cytometric analysis. Other applications were tested at BD Biosciences Pharmingen during antibody development only or reported in the literature.

Preparation and Storage

Store undiluted at 4° C and protected from prolonged exposure to light. Do not freeze.

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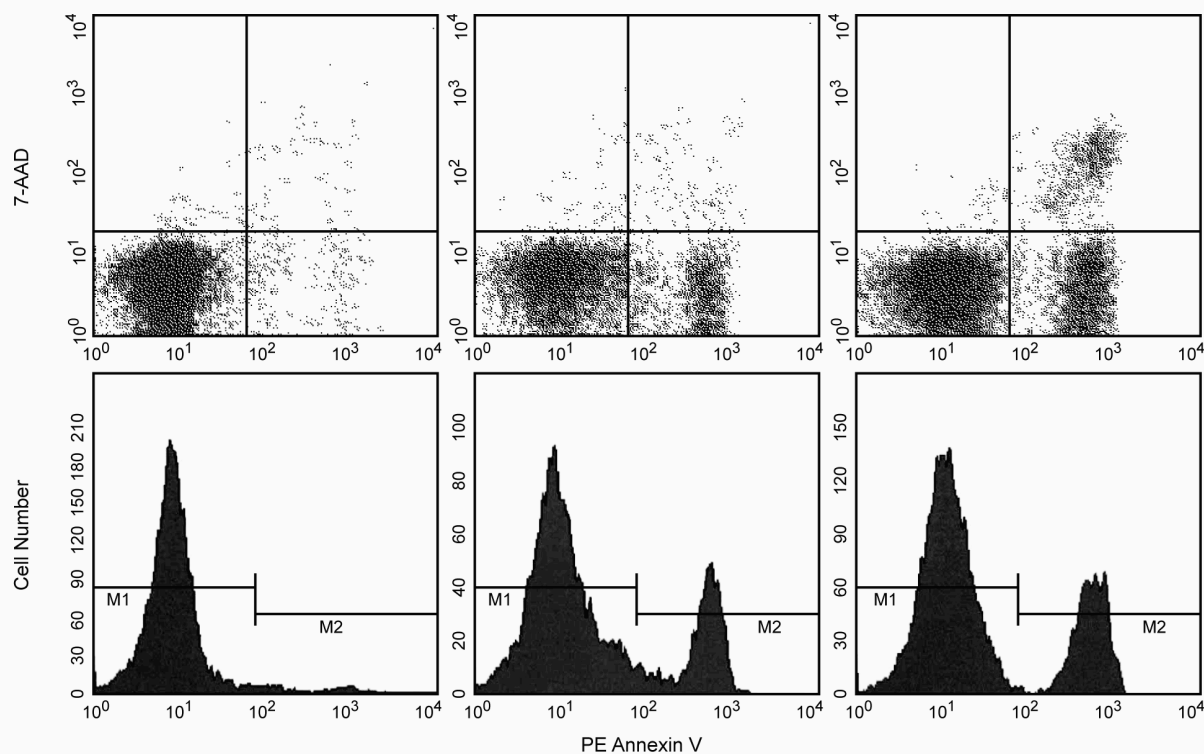
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PE Annexin V: A tool for identifying cells that are undergoing apoptosis. Jurkat T cells were left untreated (upper left & lower left panels), treated for 5 hours (upper middle & lower middle panels) or 12 hours (upper right & lower right panels) with anti-human Fas antibody (clone DX2, Cat. No. 555670) and Protein G. Cells were incubated with PE Annexin V in a buffer containing 7-amino-actinomycin (7-AAD, Cat. No. 559925) and analyzed by flow cytometry. Untreated cells were primarily PE Annexin V and 7-AAD negative, indicating that they were viable and not undergoing apoptosis. After a 5 hour treatment with DX2, there were two populations of cells: cells undergoing apoptosis (PE Annexin V positive and 7-AAD negative), and cells that were viable and not undergoing apoptosis (PE Annexin V and 7-AAD negative). After a 12 hour treatment with DX2, three populations of cells were identified: Cells that had died or were in latest stage of apoptosis (PE Annexin V and 7-AAD positive), cells undergoing apoptosis (PE Annexin V positive and 7-AAD negative), and cells that were viable and not undergoing apoptosis (PE Annexin V and 7-AAD negative).

Application Notes

Application

Flow cytometry	Routinely Tested
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Recommended Assay Procedure:

PE Annexin V is a sensitive probe for identifying apoptotic cells, binding to negatively charged phospholipid surfaces (Kd of $\sim 5 \times 10^{-2}$) with a higher affinity for phosphatidylserine (PS) than most other phospholipids. PE Annexin V binding is calcium dependent and defined calcium and salt concentrations are required for optimal staining as described in the PE Annexin V Staining Protocol. **Investigators should note that PE Annexin V flow cytometric analysis on adherent cell types (e.g HeLa, NIH 3T3, etc.) is not routinely tested as specific membrane damage may occur during cell detachment or harvesting. Methods for utilizing Annexin V for flow cytometry on adherent cell types, however, have been previously reported (Casiola-Rosen et al. and van Engelen et al.).**

INDUCTION OF APOPTOSIS USING AN ANTI-HUMAN CD95 (FAS) ANTIBODY

The following protocol is provided as an illustration on how PE Annexin V may be used on a human cell line.

Materials

1. A cell line or primary cells that can easily be induced to undergo apoptosis by human Fas mAb. Examples include Daudi lymphoma cells (ATCC CCL-213) and Jurkat T cells (ATCC TIB-152). It is important to note that there can be significant variation between cell lines regarding the level of apoptosis that can be induced through the Fas receptor. Also, not all cell types which express the Fas antigen will necessarily undergo Fas-mediated apoptosis. The cell lines mentioned above are good positive controls as they are strongly induced to undergo apoptosis by Fas mAb.
2. Anti-human CD95 (Fas) mAb, clone DX2 (Cat. No. 555670).
3. Recombinant Protein G (Sigma-Aldrich cat.no. P4689). We have found that the addition of Protein G to the tissue culture medium can significantly enhance the efficiency of the DX2 clone to induce apoptosis.
4. T25 tissue culture flasks.
5. IMDM or RPMI 1640 medium with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% L-glutamine and 1% antibiotics (penicillin/

streptomycin; 100 U/ml). This supplemented medium is simply referred to as 'medium' below.

Procedure

1. Maintain the cells in culture and change the medium one day before inducing apoptosis.
2. Induction of apoptosis: Add 0.5 - 2 µg/ml of the anti-CD95 antibody (DX2 clone) and 1-2 µg/ml Protein G to a T25 flask with medium containing $\sim 0.5 \times 10^6$ cells/ml. Negative controls should consist of:
 - (a) $\sim 0.5 \times 10^6$ cells/ml with medium alone (no mAb or Protein G), and
 - (b) $\sim 0.5 \times 10^6$ cells/ml with medium and 1 µg/ml Protein G alone (no mAb).
3. Incubate the cells for 2 to 12 hr at 37°C
4. Proceed with the PE Annexin V Staining Protocol to measure apoptosis. Apoptosis can also be observed by light microscopy, gel electrophoresis (DNA fragmentation ladders) or by using a DNA fragmentation-based flow cytometry assay system such as the APO-BRDU™ Kit (Cat. No. 556405) or the APO-DIRECT™ Kit (Cat. No. 556381).

INDUCTION OF APOPTOSIS USING AN ANTI-MOUSE CD95 (FAS) ANTIBODY

The following protocol is provided as an illustration on how PE Annexin V may be used on murine cells.

Materials

1. A cell line or primary cells that can easily be induced to undergo apoptosis by mouse Fas monoclonal antibody (mAb). Thymocytes isolated from a 4-6 week old BALB/c mouse may be used.
2. Anti-mouse CD95 (Fas) mAb, clone Jo2 (Cat. No. 554254)
3. Recombinant Protein G (Sigma-Aldrich cat.no. P4689). We have found that the addition of Protein G to the tissue culture medium can significantly enhance the efficiency of Jo2 mAb to induce apoptosis.
4. T25 tissue culture flasks
5. RPMI-1640 medium with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% L-glutamine and 1% antibiotics (penicillin/ streptomycin; 100 U/ml). This supplemented medium is simply referred to as 'medium' below.

Procedure

1. Isolate BALB/c thymocytes from the thymus of a 4-6 week old mouse.
2. Induction of apoptosis. Add 2.5-10 µg/ml Jo2 (Cat. No. 554254) to a T25 flask containing $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ to 1×10^7 thymocytes/ml. Negative controls should consist of
 - (a) $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ to $\sim 1 \times 10^7$ thymocytes/ml with medium alone (no mAb), and
 - (b) medium containing a hamster isotype control (clone Ha4/8, Cat. No. 553961). For the isotype control use concentrations of antibody similar to that used for Jo2.
3. Incubate the cells for 2-12 hrs at 37°C.
4. Proceed with the PE Annexin V Staining Protocol to measure apoptosis. Apoptosis can also be observed by light microscopy, gel electrophoresis (DNA fragmentation ladders) or by using a DNA fragmentation-based flow cytometry assay system such as the APO-BRDU™ Kit (Cat. No. 556405) or the APO-DIRECT™ Kit (Cat. No. 556381).

PE ANNEXIN V STAINING PROTOCOL

PE Annexin V is used to quantitatively determine the percentage of cells within a population that are actively undergoing apoptosis. It relies on the property of cells to lose membrane asymmetry in the early phases of apoptosis. In apoptotic cells, the membrane phospholipid phosphatidylserine (PS) is translocated from the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane to the outer leaflet, thereby exposing PS to the external environment. Annexin V is a calcium-dependent phospholipid-binding protein that has a high affinity for PS, and is useful for identifying apoptotic cells with exposed PS. 7-amino-actinomycin (7-AAD) is a standard flow cytometric viability probe and is used to distinguish viable from nonviable cells. Viable cells with intact membranes exclude 7-AAD, whereas the membranes of dead and damaged cells are permeable to 7-AAD. Cells that stain positive for PE Annexin V and negative for 7-AAD are undergoing apoptosis. Cells that stain positive for both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD are either in the end stage of apoptosis, are undergoing necrosis, or are already dead. Cells that stain negative for both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD are alive and not undergoing measurable apoptosis.

Reagents

1. PE Annexin V: Included. Use 5 µl per test.
2. 7-Amino-Actinomycin D (7-AAD): Not Included. 7-AAD (cat.no. 559925) is a convenient, ready-to-use nucleic acid dye with fluorescence detectable in the far red range of the spectrum. Use 5 µl per test.
3. 10× Binding Buffer: Not Included. 0.1 M Hepes (pH 7.4), 1.4 M NaCl, 25 mM CaCl₂. Store at 4°C. Alternatively, catalog number 556454 may be purchased.

Staining

1. Wash cells twice with cold PBS and then resuspend cells in 1× Binding Buffer at a concentration of 1×10^6 cells/ml.

2. Transfer 100 µl of the solution (1×10^5 cells) to a 5 ml culture tube.
3. Add 5 µl of PE Annexin V (for one and two color analysis) and 5 µl of 7-AAD (for two color analysis only).
4. Gently vortex the cells and incubate for 15 min at RT (25 °C) in the dark.
5. Add 400 µl of 1× Binding Buffer to each tube. Analyze by flow cytometry within 1 hr.

SUGGESTED CONTROLS FOR SETTING UP FLOW CYTOMETRY

The following controls are used to set up compensation and quadrants:

1. Unstained cells.
2. Cells stained with PE Annexin V alone (no 7-AAD).
3. Cells stained with 7-AAD alone (no PE Annexin V).

Other Staining Controls:

A cell line that can be easily induced to undergo apoptosis should be used to obtain positive control staining with PE Annexin V and/or PE Annexin V and 7-AAD. It is important to note that the basal level of apoptosis and necrosis varies considerably within a population. Thus, even in the absence of induced apoptosis, most cell populations will contain a minor percentage of cells that are positive for apoptosis (PE Annexin V positive, 7-AAD negative or PE Annexin V positive, 7-AAD positive).

The untreated population is used to define the basal level of apoptotic and dead cells. The percentage of cells that have been induced to undergo apoptosis is then determined by subtracting the percentage of apoptotic cells in the untreated population from percentage of apoptotic cells in the treated population. Since cell death is the eventual outcome of cells undergoing apoptosis, cells in the late stages of apoptosis will have a damaged membrane and stain positive for 7-AAD as well as for PE Annexin V. Thus the assay does not distinguish between cells that have already undergone an apoptotic cell death and those that have died as a result of necrotic pathway, because in either case the dead cells will stain with both PE Annexin V and 7-AAD.

Suggested Companion Products

Catalog Number	Name	Size	Clone
556454	Annexin V Binding Buffer, 10X concentrate	50 ml	(none)
559925	7-AAD	2.0 ml	(none)

Product Notices

1. Since applications vary, each investigator should titrate the reagent to obtain optimal results.
2. Please refer to www.bdbiosciences.com/pharmingen/protocols for technical protocols.
3. For fluorochrome spectra and suitable instrument settings, please refer to our Fluorochrome Web Page at www.bdbiosciences.com/pharmingen/colors.
4. Caution: Sodium azide yields highly toxic hydrazoic acid under acidic conditions. Dilute azide compounds in running water before discarding to avoid accumulation of potentially explosive deposits in plumbing.
5. Source of all serum proteins is from USDA inspected abattoirs located in the United States.

References

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