

# Supercritical Fluid Application Notes

## SFE536: Decellularize Tissue and Organs Using Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> / Ethanol

### Introduction

Tissue engineering uses extracellular matrix scaffolds (ECM) in many clinical applications for reconstruction of tissues and organs. Xenogenetic biomaterials are a common source for human tissue engineering because of the severe shortage of human tissues and organs. Standard methods for decellularization often damage the 3D architecture and alter the structural integrity of the ECM scaffold. Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> can be used to obtain intact ECM scaffold architecture from numerous animal organs and tissues without using harmful and toxic chemicals.

### Equipment

Applied Separations Supercritical Extraction Equipment including the Helix, SFE 2, SFE 4, or Basic model.

### Materials

Liquid CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder

95% ethanol

Phosphate buffered saline solution sodium hydroxide (0.1–1 N)



### Method

(see references for detailed procedures)

#### Preparation & slicing of tissues.

Remove the fat bed and extraneous tissue carefully. Rinse the tissues and organs using phosphate-buffered saline and freeze at -20 °C. Slice the frozen tissues and organs using a meat slicer to a thickness (1–5 mm). Place the frozen slices in a muslin bag.

#### Production of decellularized tissue & organ scaffolds

Add a specified amount of 75% to 95% ethanol into the extraction vessel and then place the tissue and organ slices onto a tissue holder and place the holder inside the scCO<sub>2</sub> vessel system. Decellularize the samples in the Applied Separations scCO<sub>2</sub> system set to operate at 30–50 °C and 200–

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350 bar for 40–90 min. After supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> processing, slowly depressurize and remove the samples. Neutralize the samples using sodium hydroxide (0.1–1 N) to produce decellularized ECM scaffolds. Next, freeze dry the ECM scaffolds and cut to appropriate sizes to fit in the culture plates. The freeze-dried decellularized ECM scaffolds may also be subjected to freeze-milling to make a powder form of the scaffold with a different size sieve, Pack the powder vials and sterilized by irradiation (25 kGy)

## Conclusion

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Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> and ethanol are used to decellularize a multitude of natural tissue and organs. The method is simple to use and effective in producing intact scaffolds for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. The method has successfully produced intact scaffolds from liver, brain, kidney, pancreas, artery, heart, skin, bone, cartilage, and corneal tissues. These natural ECM scaffolds produced by the scCO<sub>2</sub> process retain the ECM biological signals necessary for stem cell migration, adhesion, proliferation and possibly differentiation for the reconstruction of specific tissues and organs.

## References

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