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A Rapid and Simple Method for Isolating Principal Cells from the Rat Caput Epididymidis

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A technique is described for the rapid isolation of principal cells from enzymatically dispersed rat caput epididymidis by differential sedimentation into calf serum. Sedimentations were prepared in common glass separatory funnels. Sperm-free, principal cell populations that were 66.6% pure and averaged 10^6 cells were isolated after 10 minutes of sedimentation. This represents a twofold enrichment in principal cells over that achieved in the dispersed tissue suspension. Based on dye exclusion tests, viability of principal cells after separation was 90%, suggesting that the cells are well suited for physiologic study.

Key words: epididymis, principal cell, rapid isolation

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