

ABSTRACT

METHOD OF CULTURING CELL POPULATION AND USE THEREOF

The present invention addresses the problem of providing a means for efficiently preparing a cell population rich in cells having a given phenotype depending on their use (e.g., type II collagen-positive nucleus pulposus cells) from a cell population containing Tie2-positive stem/progenitor cells (e.g., nucleus pulposus stem/progenitor cells). The present invention provides culture methods wherein a cell population containing Tie2-positive stem/progenitor cells is cultured (1) while present in a non-digested tissue, (2) in a culture medium containing at least one kind of Tie2 expression enhancer other than growth factors, (3) using cultureware with a culture surface having undergone cell attachment-increasing treatment, or (4) while suppressing formation of spheroid colonies in a culture medium containing an extracellular matrix-degrading agent.

[No suitable figure]