CLAIMS

1. A method for culturing animal cells in a culture medium, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 5 mg/L and not more than 500 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 5 mg/L and not more than 200 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 100 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

4. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the culture medium further comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of thymidine or a salt thereof.

5. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the culture medium further comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of deoxycytidine or a salt thereof.

6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 100 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof, not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of thymidine or a salt thereof, and not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of deoxycytidine or a salt thereof.

7. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3 or 6, wherein the animal cells are recombinant cells transformed with a gene encoding a protein.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the protein is an antibody.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the animal cells are Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells.

10. A method for producing a protein, the method comprising the step of culturing animal cells expressing the protein in a culture medium, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 10 mg/L and not more than 200 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 100 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

12. The method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the culture medium further comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of thymidine or a salt thereof.

13. The method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the culture medium further comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of deoxycytidine or a salt thereof.

14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 100 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof, not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of thymidine or a salt thereof, and not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of deoxycytidine or a salt thereof.

15. The method according to claim 10, 11 or 14, wherein the animal cells are recombinant cells transformed with a gene encoding a protein.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the protein is an antibody.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein the animal cells are Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells.

18. A culture medium comprising not less than 5 mg/L and not more than 500 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

19. The culture medium according to claim 18, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 5 mg/L and not more than 200 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

20. The culture medium according to claim 18, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 100 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof.

21. The culture medium according to any of claims 18 to 20, wherein the culture medium further comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of thymidine or a salt thereof.

22. The culture medium according to any of claims 18 to 20, wherein the culture medium further comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of deoxycytidine or a salt thereof.

23. The culture medium according to claim 20, wherein the culture medium comprises not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 100 mg/L of deoxyuridine or a salt thereof, not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of thymidine or a salt thereof, and not less than 15 mg/L and not more than 50 mg/L of deoxycytidine or a salt thereof.

24. The culture medium according to any of claims 18 to 20 or 23, wherin the culture medium is used for culturing animal cells.

25. The culture medium according to claim 24, wherein the animal cells are recombinant cells transformed with a gene encoding a protein.

26. The culture medium according to claim 25, wherein the protein is an antibody.

27. The culture medium according to any of claims 24 to 26, wherein the animal cells are Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells.