

ABSTRACT**Isolation of Inner Cell Mass for the Establishment of Human Embryonic Stem Cell (hESC) Lines**

A method for isolating an inner cell mass comprising the steps of immobilizing a blastocyst stage embryo having a zona pellucida, trophectoderm, and inner cell mass, creating an aperture in the blastocyst stage embryo by laser ablation, and removing the inner cell mass from the blastocyst stage embryo through the aperture. The aperture is through the zona pellucida and the trophectoderm. The laser ablation is achieved using non-contact diode laser. The inner cell mass removed from the blastocyst stage embryo is used to establish human Embryonic Stem Cell lines.

(No Suitable Figure)