

1, 2  
1, 1, 2

## Effect of Magnesium Ion in the Culture Medium on the Development of Preimplantation Mouse Embryos *In Vitro*

Soo-Jin Choi<sup>1,2</sup>, Jin Hyun Jun<sup>1</sup>, Yong-Seog Park<sup>1</sup>, In-Ha Bae<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Reproductive Biology and Infertility, Samsung Cheil Hospital & Women's Healthcare Center, Seoul 100-380; <sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, College of Natural Sciences, Sungshin Women's University, Seoul 136-742, Korea

**Objective:** The present study was undertaken to examine the effects of magnesium ion in the culture medium on the development of mouse fertilized oocytes either before or after pronuclear formation, and to investigate whether the effect of magnesium ion is related with the redistributive change of mitochondria.

**Methods:** Fertilized oocytes obtained from the oviducts of mice at 15 hr after hCG injection before pronuclear formation (pre-PN) or 21 hr after hCG injection after pronuclear formation (post-PN) were used. The embryos were cultured for 3 days with basic T6 medium-magnesium free and various concentrations of magnesium ion, 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 4.0 or 8.0 mM, respectively. After culture, the developmental stages of embryos and the number of nuclei were evaluated. To observe the effects of magnesium ion on the mitochondrial distribution, fertilized oocytes were collected at 21 hr after hCG injection and cultured for 6 hr with various concentration of magnesium ion. As a control, fertilized oocytes with pronuclei at 27 hr after hCG injection were used.

**Results:** The concentration of magnesium ion to accelerate the *in vitro* development of mouse fertilized oocytes appeared to be at 2.0 mM for the pre-PN and the post-PN stage embryos. In the mitochondrial redistribution patterns, the embryos cultured in 2.0 mM concentration of magnesium ion showed the highest percentage (22.6%) of distinct perinuclear clustering pattern comparing to other experimental group.

**Conclusion:** The effect of magnesium ion may be related to the cytoplasmic redistribution of mitochondria. This relationship seems to connect the developmental competence of preimplantation mouse embryos *in vitro*. These results can suggest that higher concentration of magnesium ion (2.0 mM) than those of conventional culture medium (0.2~1.2 mM) is more suitable for *in vitro* culture of preimplantation mouse embryos.

**Key Words:** Magnesium ion, Culture medium, Preimplantation mouse embryos, Developmental competence, Mitochondrial distribution

junction communication,

가 가 <sup>1-10</sup> (in vitro culture)

1 - (homeostasis) <sup>22</sup>

<sup>23</sup>

(cellular function) <sup>11,12</sup>

(calcium oscillation) , ATP가 가

<sup>13</sup> (abnormal control) , DNA , <sup>24-27</sup>

communication 가 <sup>14,15</sup>

DNA uri- <sup>28</sup> Barnett Bavister <sup>29</sup>

dine 1 - <sup>16,17</sup> Fisher <sup>18</sup>

(optimal stimulation)

(Chick embryo cell) / 가

DNA (effector) DNA 가

(modifier) <sup>19</sup> 가

<sup>20,21</sup>

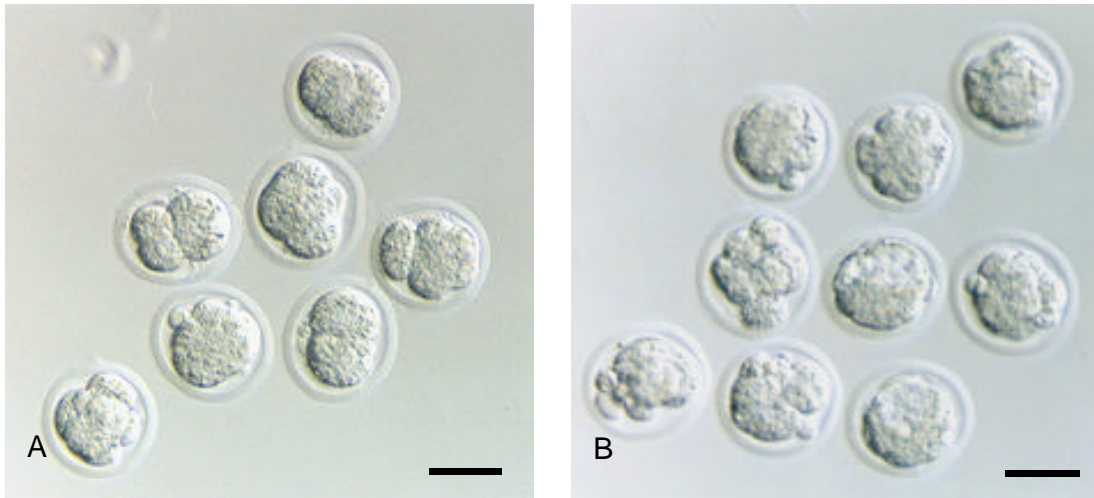
Lane 0.5 mM ~ 1. 가 14

<sup>22</sup> 1 - 4.0 mM 가 2.0 mM 가 1) 가 5~6

가 2 - , 10 (C57BL/6 × CBA F1) 12

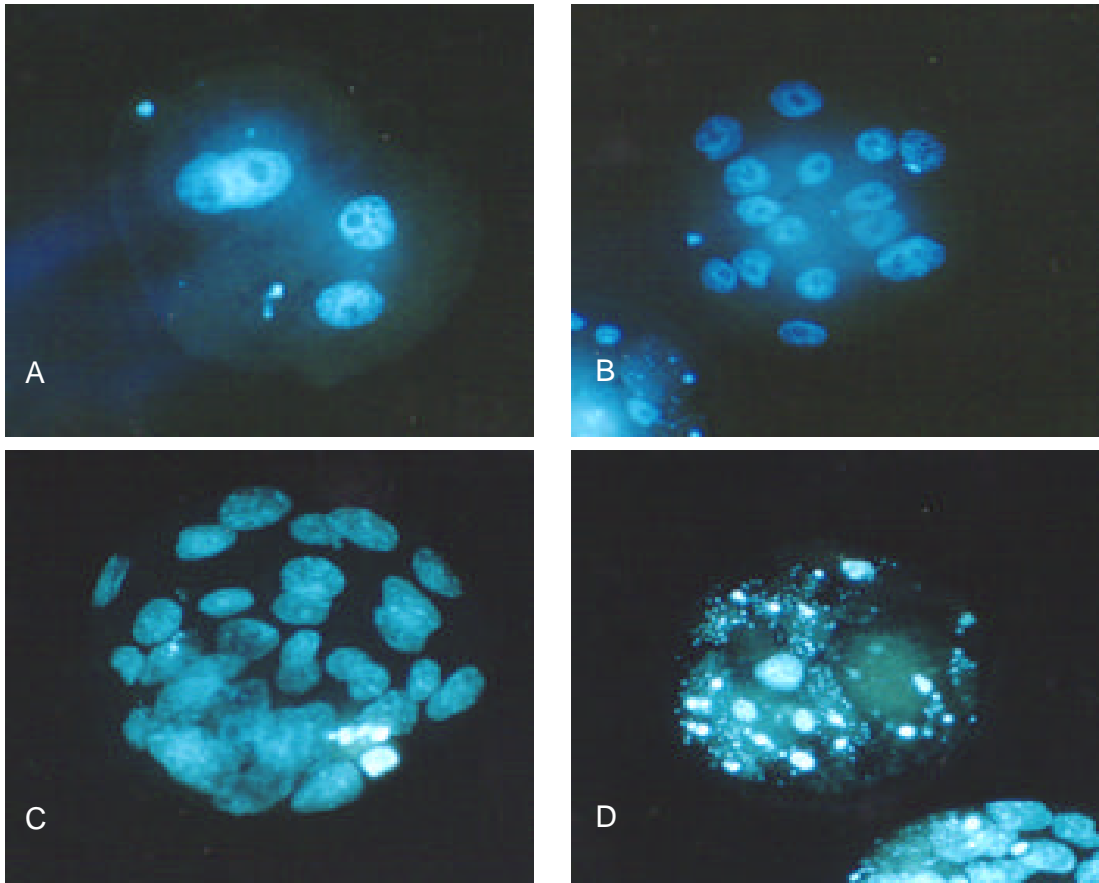
가가 가 (homeo- 5 IU (international unit) pe-

tasis) , gap pregnant mare's serum gonadotropin (PMSG, Sigma)



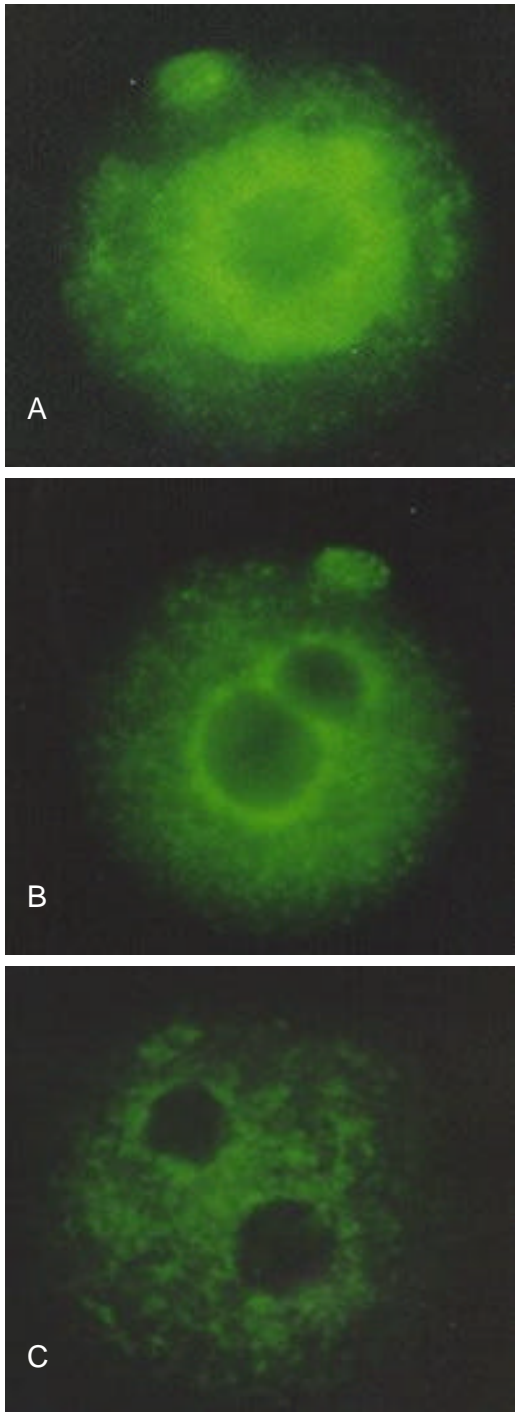
**Figure 1.** Microphotographs of mouse embryos collected from oviduct 21 hr after hCG injection followed by culture for 75 hr. Magnification,  $\times 200$ . Bar indicates 50  $\mu$ m. For details, see Table 2. **A**, 0.0 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration, 1.78 mM  $Ca^{2+}$  concentration; **B**, 2.0 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration, 1.78 mM  $Ca^{2+}$  concentration

48	human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG,	(Falcon 3002)	0.0,
Sigma)		0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 8.0 mM	가
	(vaginal plug)	<sup>30,31</sup> 20 $\mu$ l	,
		mineral oil (Sigma)	
2)	(pre - PN)		
	hCG 15	3	
		37	5% CO <sub>2</sub>
	0.4% bovine serum albumin (BSA,	95% , 100%	가
Gibco) 가	modified		hCG 96
Tyrode's solution-Magnesium free (T6-Mg free )		2~8 ,	(morula),
		(blastocyst)	(degenerated embryo)
	0.1% hyaluronidase (Sigma)	(Figure 1).	
	mucin (cumu-	3.	
lus cell)			
3	(pronucleus)	hCG 96	
3)	(post - PN)	1% glutaraldehyde , 10	
	hCG 21	$\mu$ g/ml Hoechst 33342 (bisbenzimidazole solution, Sigma)	
		phosphate buffered saline (PBS)	
		<sup>32</sup> 0.4% polyvinyl-pyrrolidone (PVP,	
		Sigma)-PBS mounting	
2.		(Nikon, Japan) (400 $\times$ )	
	microdroplet	(Figure 2).	



**Figure 2.** Fluorescence micrographs of mouse embryo stained with Hoechst 33342 (bisbenzimidazole solution). Magnification,  $\times 400$ . For details, see Table 1 & 2. **A**, 4-cell embryo; **B**, Morula; **C**, Early Blastocyst; **D**, Degenerated embryo

4.		Rh123 stock	(1 $\mu$ g/ml; final concentration 10 $\mu$ g/ml)	
			(culture condition)	15
	transmembrane electrical potential	rhodamine 123 (Rh123, Molecular probes R-302, Eugene, USA)	slide	cover slip (Nikon, Japan)
		Rh123 stock solution		B-2A filter (200 $\times$ )
		methanol 10 mg/ml		
			10,29,33	
			(distinct perinuclear clustering),	
			(perinuclear clustering),	
			(dispersed throughout the cytoplasm)	
			(Figure 3).	
			5.	
				Student's t-test



**Figure 3.** Fluorescence micrographs of the mitochondria in the one-cell embryo stained with Rhodamine 123. Magnification,  $\times 400$ . For details, see Table 3. **A**, distinct perinuclear clustering; **B**, perinuclear clustering; **C**, dispersed throughout the cytoplasm

1.

1 -  
 0.0 mM  
 25.7% , 2.0, 4.0, 8.0 mM  
 62.0%, 55.6%, 47.1%  
 (p<0.01). 2.0 mM  
 가

Hoechst 33342

2.0, 4.0, 8.0 mM 25.2, 25.2, 22.5  
 0.0 mM (17.4)  
 (p<0.01), 2.0 4.0 mM 가  
 가 (Table 1).

1 -  
 가 0.0 mM (25.1%)  
 2.0 4.0 mM 71.3%, 64.4%  
 , 2.0 mM 가  
 (p<0.01).

1.0, 2.0, 4.0 mM 20.2, 21.0,  
 18.8 0.0 mM (15.5)  
 (p<0.05), 2.0 mM 가  
 가 (Table 2, p<0.01).

2.

hCG  
 27 64.4% 가  
 ,  
 6  
 (p<0.01).  
 2.0 mM  
 22.6% 0.0, 8.0 mM  
 4.3%, 6.0% (Table  
 3, p<0.05).

**Table 1.** Effect of various magnesium concentrations in the culture medium on the *in vitro* development of pre-PN stage embryos

Magnesium concentration (mM)	Total no. of embryos	Developmental stage reached after 3 days of culture (%)			Cell number of Mo. and Bl.
		Morula (Mo)	Blastocyst (Bl)	Mo. + Bl.	
0.0	66	25.7 ± 3.9	0.0 ± 0.0	25.7 ± 3.9	17.4 ± 1.2
0.5	62	33.6 ± 3.7	8.1 ± 6.5	41.7 ± 6.2	19.8 ± 1.5
1.0	64	34.8 ± 3.2	5.2 ± 3.4	39.9 ± 3.3*	18.9 ± 1.0
2.0	71	48.6 ± 6.5	13.4 ± 3.1	62.0 ± 5.5**	25.2 ± 1.1**
4.0	67	41.7 ± 6.8	8.7 ± 3.4	55.6 ± 5.2**	25.2 ± 0.9**
8.0	68	47.1 ± 4.8	0.0 ± 0.0	47.1 ± 4.8**	22.5 ± 1.0**

The concentration of calcium ion was adjusted to 1.78 mM. The results were obtained by pooling of seven replicates (Student's t-test). P values significantly differ from the 0.0 mM concentration group (\*\*p<0.01, \*p<0.05). Embryos were flushed at 15 hr after hCG injection and those of PN formed embryos at 26~28 hr after hCG were further culture in the present study. Data are mean ± SEM.

**Table 2.** Effect of various magnesium concentrations in the culture medium on the *in vitro* development of post-PN stage embryos

Magnesium concentration (mM)	Total no. of embryos	Developmental stage reached after 3 days of culture (%)			Cell number of Mo. and Bl.
		Morula (Mo)	Blastocyst (Bl)	Mo. + Bl.	
0.0	77	23.7 ± 5.1	1.4 ± 1.3	25.1 ± 5.9	15.5 ± 1.0
0.5	74	42.1 ± 9.3	0.0 ± 0.0	42.1 ± 9.3	15.3 ± 0.6
1.0	79	39.6 ± 6.2	7.7 ± 6.9	47.3 ± 10.3	20.2 ± 1.4*
2.0	74	60.7 ± 7.7	10.5 ± 3.2	71.3 ± 10.2**	21.0 ± 1.2**
4.0	76	59.0 ± 3.5	5.5 ± 2.6	64.4 ± 5.9**	18.8 ± 0.9*
8.0	77	32.1 ± 8.8	0.0 ± 0.0	32.1 ± 8.8	16.3 ± 0.9

The concentration of calcium ion was adjusted to 1.78 mM. The results were obtained by pooling of five replicates (Student's t-test). P values significantly differ from the 0.0 mM concentration group (\*\*p<0.01, \*p<0.05). Embryos were flushed at 21 hr after hCG injection and those of PN formed embryos were further culture in the present study. Data are mean ± SEM.

**Table 3.** Effect of various magnesium concentrations on mitochondrial distribution of one-cell embryos *in vitro* culture

Magnesium concentration	Total No. of embryos	Pattern of mitochondrial distribution (%)		
		Distinct Perinuclear clustering	Perinuclear clustering	Dispersed throughout the cytoplasm
Control	67	64.4 ± 4.4 <sup>a</sup>	26.5 ± 3.0	9.2 ± 4.1
0.0	74	4.3 ± 1.9 <sup>b</sup>	28.6 ± 4.3	67.0 ± 3.1
2.0	79	22.6 ± 4.7 <sup>c</sup>	35.6 ± 4.2	41.7 ± 3.0
8.0	77	6.0 ± 2.7 <sup>d</sup>	39.9 ± 5.2	54.1 ± 4.9

The concentration of calcium ion was adjusted to 1.78 mM. The results were obtained by pooling of seven replicates (student's t-test). P values significantly differ from the control group (ab, ac, ad p<0.01); P values significantly differ from the 2.0 mM concentration group (bc, p<0.01, cd p<0.05). Control, all embryos were flushed at 27 hr after hCG injection. The other group, all embryos were flushed at 21 hr after hCG injection and 6 hr further culture were done *in vitro* system. Data are mean ± SEM.

가<sup>34,36</sup>  
가  
buffer 가  
1- 2.0,  
4.0, 8.0 mM 가 0.0 mM Myocardial cell  
(p<0.01), 2.0 mM 가  
가  
2.0, 4.0, 8.0 Myocardial cell  
mM 가 가 2.0 mM  
(Table 1). 1- buffering  
가 2.0 4.0 mM  
가 (8.0 mM) (cytoplasm)  
가  
1.0, 2.0, 4.0 mM kom Runner<sup>24</sup>  
2.0 mM 21.0 가 가 spindle  
(Table 2).  
2- Muggleton-Harris  
Mckiernan<sup>4</sup> Bavister Brown<sup>26</sup> '2-cell block'  
Golden<sup>34</sup>  
McKiernan 0.5 mM ~0.125  
mM, Bavister 0.1 mM ~0.8 mM  
Lane<sup>22</sup> 1- 2.0 mM 가 가 2.0 mM 가 22.6%  
0.5 mM ~4.0 mM 가  
Bavister가<sup>35</sup> Barnett 가  
3 (Table 3). spindle  
9 16% 64%  
가 , 8.0 mM (in vivo) 가 가  
가 hCG 27 가  
(6 )  
1- (dispersed throughout the cytoplasm)  
가

- (perinuclear clustering)  
(distinct perinuclear clustering)
- 2.0 mM      가      가
- 가      ,
- 가      .
- 0.2 mM ~ 1.2 mM      가
1. Borland RM, Hazra S, Biggers JD, Lechene CP. The elemental Composition of the environments of the gametes and preimplantation embryo during the initiation of pregnancy. *Biol Reprod* 1977; 16: 147-57.
  2. Bavister BD, Leibfried ML, Lieberman G. Development of preimplantation embryos of the golden hamster in a defined culture medium. *Biol Reprod* 1983; 28: 235-47.
  3. Spindle A. *In vitro* development of one-cell embryos from outbred mice: Influence of culture medium composition. *In Vitro Cell Dev Biol* 1990; 25: 151-6.
  4. McKiernan SH, Bavister BD. Environmental variables influencing *in vitro* development of hamster 2-cell embryos to the blastocyst stage. *Biol Reprod* 1990; 43: 404-13.
  5. Lawitts JA, Biggers JD. Optimization of mouse embryo culture media using simplex methods. *J Reprod Fert* 1991a; 91: 543-56.
  6. Lawitts JA, Biggers JD. Overcoming the 2-cell block by modifying standard components in a mouse embryo culture medium. *Biol Reprod* 1991b; 45: 245-51.
  7. Lawitts JA, Biggers JD. Joint effects of sodium chloride, glutamine, and glucose in mouse preimplantation embryo culture media. *Mol Reprod Dev* 1992; 31: 189-94.
  8. Biggers JD, Lawitts JA, Lechene CP. The protective action of betaine on the deleterious effects of NaCl on preimplantation mouse embryos *in vitro*. *Mol Reprod Dev* 1993; 34: 380-90.
  9. Erbach GT, Lawitts JA, Papaioannou VE, Biggers JD. Differential growth of the mouse preimplantation embryo in chemically defined media. *Biol Reprod* 1994; 50: 1027-33.
  10. Barnett DK, Bavister BD. What is the relationship between the metabolism of preimplantation embryos and their developmental competence? *Mol Reprod Dev* 1996a; 43: 105-33.
  11. Carvalho AP, Sanui H, Pace N. Calcium and magnesium binding properties of cell membrane materials. *J Cell Comp Physiol* 1963; 62: 311-8.
  12. Yamamoto Y, Chen G, Miwa K, Suzuki H. Permeability and Mg<sup>2+</sup> blockade of histamine-operated cation channel in endothelial cells of rat intrapulmonary artery. *J Physiol* 1992; 450: 395-408.
  13. Bos-Mikich A, Whittingham DG, Jones KT. Meiotic and mitotic Ca<sup>2+</sup> oscillations affect cell composition in resulting blastocysts. *Dev Biol* 1997; 182: 172-9.
  14. McCormack JG, Halestrap AP, Denton RM. Role of calcium ions in regulation of mammalian intramitochondrial metabolism. *Physiol Rev* 1990; 70: 391-425.
  15. Lazrak A, Peracchia C. Gap junction gating sensitivity to physiological internal calcium regardless of pH in Novikoff hepatoma cells. *Biophys J* 1993; 65: 2002-12.
  16. Bowen-Pope DF, Rubin H. Magnesium and calcium effects on uptake of hexose and uridine by chick embryo fibroblasts. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1977; 74: 1585-9.
  17. Bowen-Pope DF, Vidair C, Sanui H, Rubin AH. Separate roles for calcium and magnesium in their synergistic effect on uridine uptake by cultured cells:



- significance for growth control. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1979; 76: 1308-12.
18. Fisher SB. The role divalent cations in the metabolic response of mouse blastocysts to serum. J Embryol Exp Morph 1980; 58: 217-29.
  19. Rubin H, Koide T. Mutual potentiation by magnesium and calcium of growth in animal cells. Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 1976; 73: 168-72.
  20. Rubin H. Central role for magnesium in coordinate control of metabolism and growth in animal cells. Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 1975; 72: 3551-5.
  21. Rubin AH, Berbie Chu. Reversible regulation by magnesium of chick embryo fibroblast proliferation. J Cell Physiol 1978; 94: 13-20.
  22. Lane M, Boatman DE, Albrecht RM, Bavister BD. Intracellular divalent cation homeostasis and developmental competence in the hamster preimplantation embryo. Mol Reprod Dev 1998; 50: 443-50.
  23. Altura BM, Altura BT, Carella A, Turlapaty PD. Ca<sup>2+</sup> coupling in vascular smooth muscle: Mg<sup>2+</sup> and buffer effects on contractility and membrane Ca<sup>2+</sup> movements. Can J Physiol Pharmacol 1982; 60: 459-82.
  24. Van-Blerkom J, Runner M. Mitochondrial reorganization during resumption of arrested meiosis in the mouse oocyte. Am J Anat 1984; 171: 335-55.
  25. Batten BE, Albertini DF, Ducibella T. Patterns of organelle distribution in mouse embryos during pre-implantation development. Am J Anat 1987; 178: 204-13.
  26. Muggleton-Harris AL, Brown JJG. Cytoplasmic factors influence mitochondrial reorganization and resumption of cleavage during culture of early mouse embryos. Hum Reprod 1988; 3: 1020-8.
  27. Noto V, Campo R, Roziars P, Swinnen K, Vercruyssen M, Gordts S. Mitochondrial distribution after fast embryo freezing. Hum Reprod 1993; 8: 2115-8.
  28. Tokura T, Noda Y, Goto Y, Mori T. Sequential observation of mitochondrial distribution in mouse oocyte and embryos. J Assisted Reprod Gen 1993; 10: 417-26.
  29. Barnett DK, Bavister BD. Inhibitory effect of glucose and phosphate on the second cleavage division of hamster embryos: is it linked to metabolism? Hum Reprod 1996b; 11: 177-83.
  30. Bae IH, Fooke RH. Maturation and rabbit follicular oocytes in a defined medium of varied osmolality. J Reprod Fert 1980; 59: 11-3.
  31. Quinn P, Warnes GM, Kerin JF, Kirby C. Culture factors in relation to the success of human *in vitro* fertilization and embryo transfer. Fertil Steril 1984; 41: 202-9.
  32. Koong MK, Jun JH, Song SJ, Lee HJ, Song IO, Kang IS. A second look at the embryo toxicity of hydrosalpingeal fluid: an *in-vitro* assessment in a murine model. Hum Reprod 1998; 13: 2852-6.
  33. Barnett DK, Clayton MK, Kimura J, Bavister BD. Glucose and phosphate toxicity in hamster preimplantation embryos involves disruption of cellular organization, including distribution of active mitochondria. Mol Reprod Dev 1997; 48: 227-37.
  34. Bavister BD, Golden M. Alteration of extracellular cation concentrations and ratios in culture medium does not affect first cleavage division of hamster zygotes *in vitro* nor overcome the 'two-cell block'. Repro Fertil Dev 1989; 1: 231-6.
  35. Barnett DK, Bavister BD. Hypotaurine requirement for *in vitro* development of golden hamster one-cell embryos into morulae and blastocysts, and production of term offspring from *in vitro*-fertilized ova. Biol Reprod 1992; 47: 297-304.
  36. Lane M, Bavister BD. Calcium homeostasis in early hamster preimplantation embryos. Biol Reprod 1998; 59: 1000-7.
  37. Tzivoni D, Keren A, Cohen AM. Magnesium therapy for torsade de pointes. Am J Cardiol 1984; 53: 528-31.