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The Potential of CO₂ Incubator "Sriwijaya CO₂ Incubator" Against Cell Culture Proliferation in Invitro Study as Smart Controlling-Based CO₂ Incubator for Cell Culture

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ABSTRACT

Introduction. A CO₂ incubator is an essential tool for the initiation of the proliferation of primary culture cells or cell lines. In principle, this tool works by keeping the sample cell line at an optimum temperature of 37°C and 5% carbon dioxide supply. The ability of the CO₂ incubator to maintain temperature and supply of 5% carbon dioxide are essential points in the development of the CO₂ incubator. This study is an attempt to convince the potential of Sriwijaya CO₂ Incubator in maintaining the proliferation ability of cultured cells in an in vitro study. **Methods.** This study is an experimental pre-post test that explores the percentage of viability of primary culture cells (fibroblasts) before and after incubation in CO₂ incubators. The object of this study was fibroblast cells obtained from the prepuce of patients who performed circumcision. **Results.** Fibroblast cell proliferation in CO₂ incubators shows an increase in the number of fibroblast proliferation which can be seen with the increasing number of cells visualized by inverted microscopy. **Conclusion.** Sriwijaya CO₂ incubator has the potential to be used in in vitro research to trigger the growth and proliferation of fibroblast cells.

1. Introduction

A CO₂ incubator is an essential tool in the success of in vitro research using cell culture, either primary cell culture or cell line culture.¹ A CO₂ incubator is a tool used in the proliferation of primary cell culture or cell line. Utilization of primary and line cells is essential in biomedical studies or drug or vaccine development.² The study of cells is a starting point in conducting biomedical studies or in vaccine and drug development. The existence of a CO₂ incubator sometimes becomes a new problem in carrying out in-vitro studies with cultured cells. Quite a few laboratory facilities have difficulty procuring CO₂ incubators, due to limited

funds for procuring the equipment. Sometimes researchers have to spend further effort and money to find a laboratory with CO₂ incubator facilities.

A CO₂ incubator is an essential tool for the initiation of the proliferation of primary culture cells or cell lines. In principle, this tool works by keeping the sample cell line at an optimum temperature of 37°C and 5% carbon dioxide supply.^{3,4} The ability of the CO₂ incubator to maintain temperature and supply of 5% carbon dioxide are essential points in the development of the CO₂ incubator. Sriwijaya CO₂ Incubator is an incubator designed to work using a smart controlling system

controlled by an Arduino microcontroller. Arduino works automatically, controlling the temperature to be stable at 37°C and supply CO₂ at 5% position. This tool is a breakthrough for all researchers who want to have a CO₂ incubator at an economical price but still have good precision. This study is an attempt to convince the potential of Sriwijaya CO₂ Incubator in maintaining the proliferation ability of cultured cells in an in vitro study.

2. Research Methods

Study design

This study is an experimental pre-post test that explores the percentage of viability of primary culture cells (fibroblasts) before and after incubation in CO₂ incubators. The object of this study was fibroblast cells obtained from the prepuce of patients who performed circumcision, obtained from Dr Moh Hoesin General Hospital Palembang. This research has received approval from the Medical and Health Research Ethics Committee (No. 143 / KEPKK-FKUNSRI / X / 2020).

Fibroblast cell culture

Fibroblast cells were obtained from the prepuce of an 11-year-old boy patient. During the trip, the skins were stored in a transportation medium consisting of Dulbecco Minimal Essential Medium (DMEM Gibco USA®) 1 time, Penstrep 400 units-400µg / ml and Amphotericin B 10 µg / ml and carried in a box filled with ice. In the laminar flow cabinet, the peels were soaked in 10% povidone-iodine for 3 minutes, washed with phosphate buffer salt solution (PBS) 3 times for 10 minutes while being cleaned of heavy tissue debris. In the last washing, the epidermis is cut and removed; the dermis is taken and cut into pieces about 20 mm³ in size, then cultured by explant technique (Viale, 2000). The pieces of the dermis are spread in a 25 cm² flask which has been filled with complete medium. The complete medium consisted of DMEM 1 times 87.950 ml, fetal bovine serum (Gibco USA®) 10 ml, amphotericin B (Fungizone-Gibco USA) 1 ml (250 µg/ml) and Pens-Strep (Gibco-USA) 1 ml (10,000 units / 10,000 µg / ml The cuttings of the dermis were incubated in an incubator at 37°C and 5% CO₂ for 24

hours After 24 hours when the cut was attached to the base of the flask, the medium at the base of the flask was sucked off and replaced with 2 ml of complete medium until all the pieces submerged dermis.

Sriwijaya CO₂ incubator development

Sriwijaya CO₂ Incubator was developed as an environmentally friendly and very economical CO₂ incubator. Whereas an incubator box used styrofoam, which is then given a layer of thermal insulation on the part and we use the heatsink and DC fan 12 V from the old desktop computer Heatsink and DC fan mounted on the inner wall of the styrofoam. Furthermore, the DS18B20 temperature sensor is used, which is placed on the heatsink, which is located in the Styrofoam box. On the inside of the Heatsink in Styrofoam is placed a CO₂ sensor GC-0017.

To control temperature and CO₂ concentration in the Styrofoam box, use an Arduino microcontroller device. The Arduino microcontroller is coding the DC fan speed regulation as well as coding the CO₂ supply regulation into the Styrofoam box. Thus, Arduino plays a role in controlling fan speed for temperature regulation and controlling CO₂ supply.

Assessment of fibroblast viability

The procedure for measuring fibroblast proliferation in single-layer cultures refers to the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl) -2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide or abbreviated MTT protocol (catalogue no: CAS # 298-9391; Bio-Basic). In summary, the procedure is: the medium from each well is sucked and discarded, washed with sterile PBS 3 times (use a blue pipette tip connected to a sterile 23 G needle). The tip of the needle should not touch the bottom of the well. µl of the complete medium for fibroblast growth was added 50 µl of MTT solution with a content of 50 mg/ml in sterile PBS. The microplates were then wrapped in aluminium foil and incubated at 37 °C 5% CO₂ for 4 hours. Then, add 200 µl of Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) 99% solution and add 50 µl of glycine buffer on top. The blue colour in each well is read the optical density by spectrophotometer 570 nm. The principle of this

method is the redox reaction that takes place inside the cell. MTT (3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) is reduced to formazan salt by the enzyme succinate dehydrogenase present in the mitochondria of living cells. The reaction was allowed to occur for 4 hours then a stopper reagent was added. The stopper reagent will lyse the cell membrane so that the formazan salt can leave the cell and dissolve the formazan salt. The formazan salt formed is quantified by a spectrophotometer and measured in the form of absorbance. The higher the absorbance, the more cells are alive (high cell viability). The amount of fibroblast proliferation was measured by the proliferation index by comparing live cells in treated fibroblasts divided by living cells in normal fibroblasts, multiplied by 100%. The unit is a percentage.

Data analysis

Data analysis was performed with the help of SPSS Version 25 for Windows software. Percentage of each

fibroblast cell culture was assessed for the percentage of viability then compared with the percentage of culture on days 1 and 5 after being inserted into the CO₂ incubator with the culture inserted into the CO₂ incubator using dependent analysis T-test, $p < 0.05$.

3. Results

Figure 1 shows a microscopic visualization of fibroblast cell proliferation in CO₂ incubators. Increasingly, it shows an increase in the number of fibroblast proliferation which can be seen with the increasing number of cells visualized by inverted microscopy.

Figure 2 shows the cell viability percentage of fibroblast cells. The graph shows that day by day, fibroblast cell proliferation increases. The statistically very significant increase was shown on the proliferation of day 5, which increased significantly compared to day 1, $p < 0.00$.

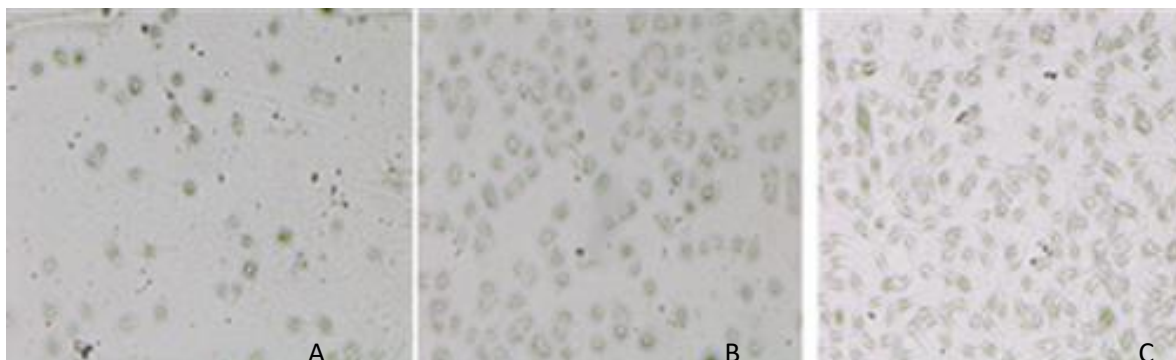


Figure 1. Cell viability in MTT Assay. A. 1 days. B. 3 days. C. 5 days

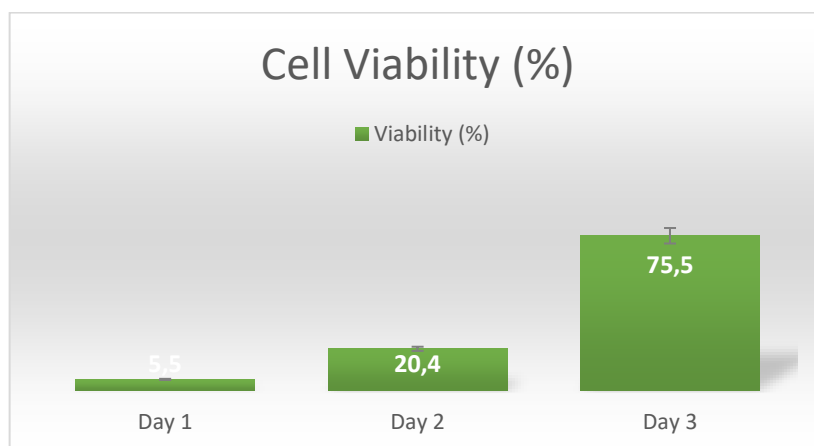


Figure 2. Percentage Cell Viability in MTT Assay

4. Discussion

Sriwijaya CO₂ Incubator is a self-developed incubator by utilizing an Arduino microcontroller to maintain consistency of CO₂ supply and maintain a stable temperature at the incubator. The use of thermal insulators is quite effective in keeping the temperature and CO₂ supply stable. The use of Arduino is quite effective in controlling CO₂ supply and temperature from the incubator box, proven by the effectiveness of Sriwijaya CO₂ incubator in triggering the proliferation of fibroblast cell cultures. The success of temperature sensors and CO₂ sensors in maintaining and controlling temperature and CO₂ concentration in the box dramatically affects the success of this incubator to function correctly and optimally. The optimum temperature of 37°C is the optimal temperature in triggering various cellular metabolic reactions, where the uncontrolled decrease or increase in temperature causes cell failure in metabolism which leads to failure of cells to grow and proliferate. Likewise, CO₂ is an important gas that plays a role in various metabolic reactions of cells. Excess or lack of CO₂ concentration causes the failure of cells to grow and proliferate.⁵⁻¹⁰

5. Conclusion

Sriwijaya CO₂ incubator has the potential to be used in in vitro research to trigger the growth and proliferation of fibroblast cells.

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