

Shipping Refrigerated Cauda Epididymides

1.0 Equipment

- 1.1** Dissecting instruments (fine-pointed scissors, fine forceps)
- 1.2** Refrigerator (4-8°C)

2.0 Supplies

- 2.1** Lifor + Quercetin + DMSO
- 2.2** 70% alcohol
- 2.3** Parafilm
- 2.4** Aluminium box
- 2.5** Gel cool packs
- 2.6** Biotube
- 2.7** Sellotape
- 2.8** Polystyrene container
- 2.9** Packing tape

3.0 Procedure

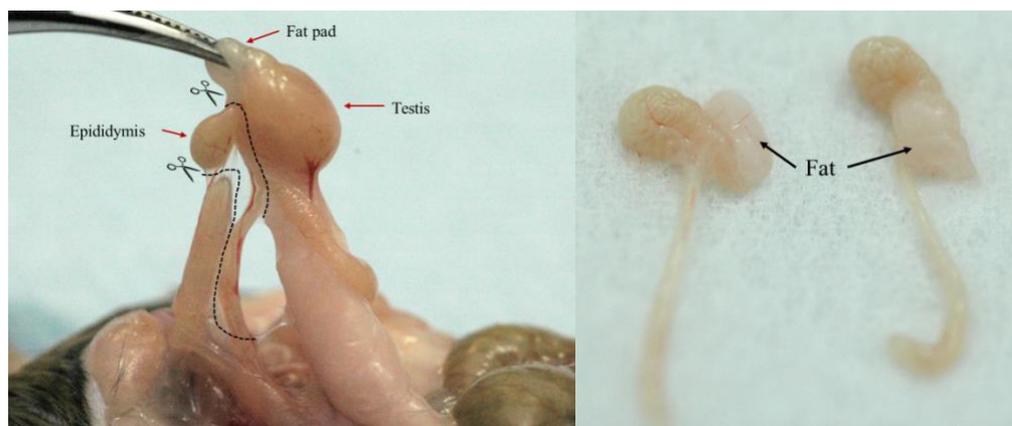
3.1 General information

- 3.1.1 On arrival the sperm can be quickly extracted from the epididymides and used in a regular IVF protocol to generate embryos for archiving/embryo transfer. Alternatively, the sperm can be cryopreserved and used at a later date.

3.2 Dissection of epididymides

- 3.2.1 The selected male should be at least 10 weeks old, and not have been used for mating for at least 3 days before sperm collection.
- 3.2.2 Thaw the Eppendorf tube with 1ml Lifer preservation medium, supplemented with Quercetin and DMSO, at room temperature. When thawed invert the Eppendorf 5 times to ensure the solution is well mixed.
- 3.2.3 Cull the male and swab the abdomen with 70% alcohol.
- 3.2.4 Cut through the abdominal skin, and then cut through the body wall, to reveal the internal organs.
- 3.2.5 Dissect the cauda epididymides from the mouse (Picture 1).

Picture 1



- 3.2.6 Put the epididymides into Lifer, ensuring they are fully immersed. Label the Eppendorf with the mouse ID and seal with parafilm.

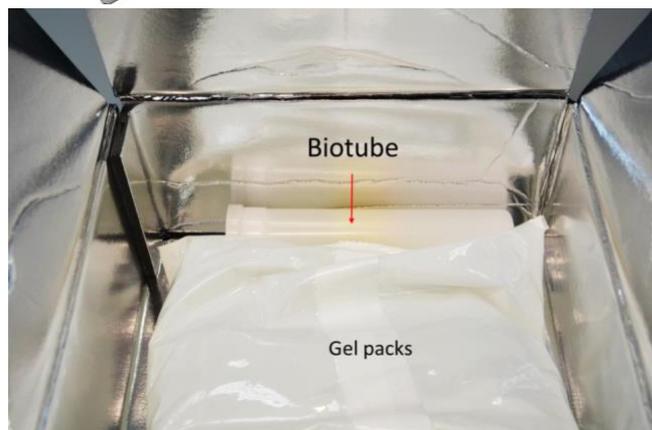
3.3 Preparing the refrigerated package

- 3.3.1 Cool the aluminium lined box, and the contents, in the refrigerator for 48hrs prior to the shipment.
- 3.3.2 Place the tube containing the epididymides into the biotube which is supplied within the cold transportation kit (Picture 2).

Picture 2

NOTE: It is possible to also include an i-button in the biotube to log the temperature of the package during the shipment.

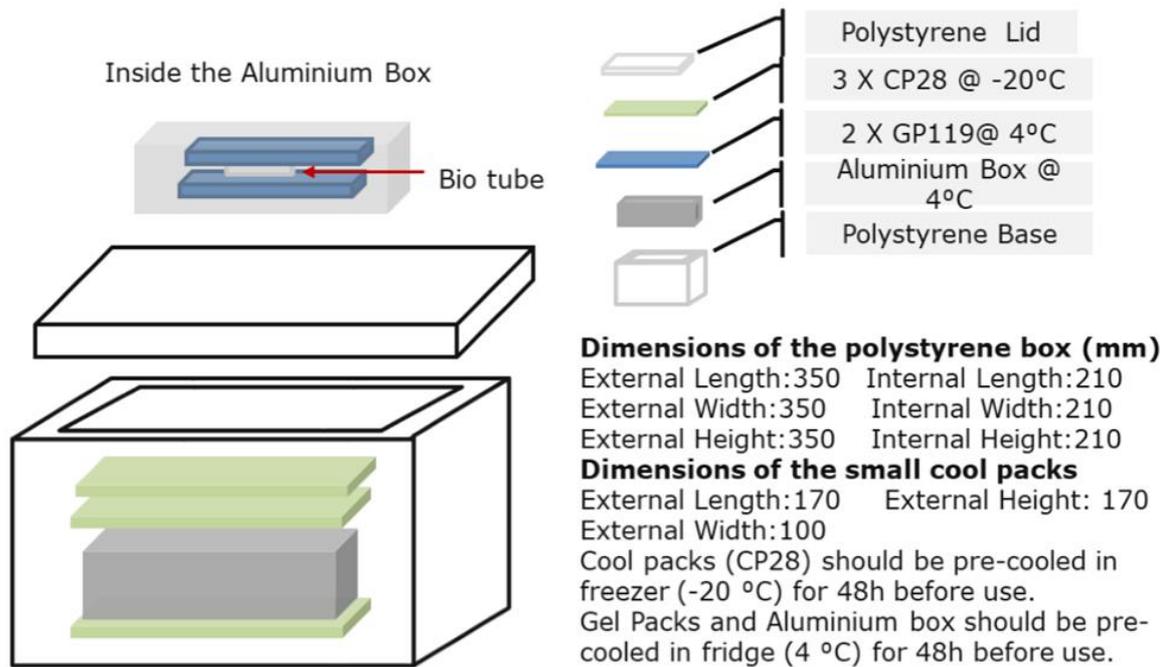
- 3.3.3 Place the biotube into an aluminium lined box, then place two gel cool packs into the aluminium box so they surround the biotube (Picture 3).

Picture 3

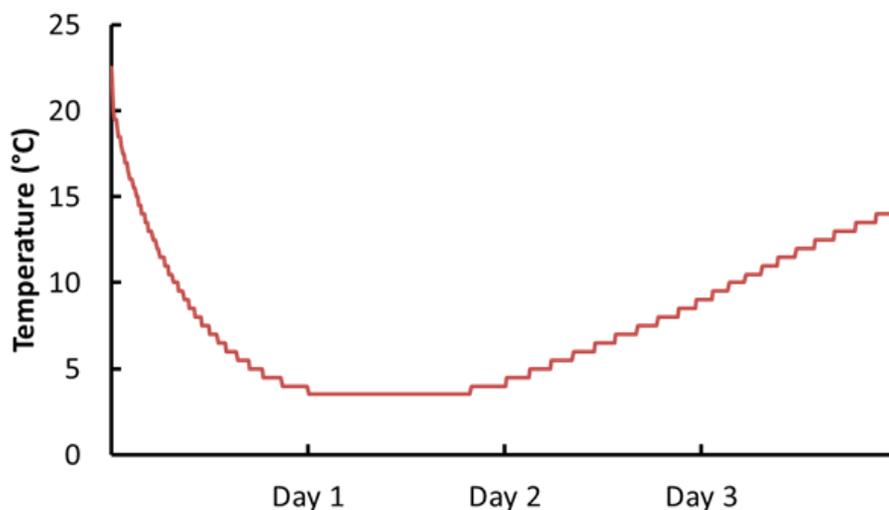
- 3.3.4 Seal the aluminium lined box with sellotape.

- 3.3.5 Place the aluminium lined box into the polystyrene container following the assembly instructions supplied with the container. Then seal the polystyrene box with packing tape (Picture 4). This thermal control unit will maintain a temperature of 4-8°C for up to 72hrs (Picture 5). The sperm will maintain fertility for at least 72hrs under these conditions.

Picture 4



Picture 5



- 3.3.6 Send the samples to the client via a standard delivery services.