



**PRODUCT INFORMATION &  
DYE TECHNICAL DATA**

**DRAQ5™**

***NBP2-81125/81129***

For research use only.  
Not for diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

# DRAQ5™ TECHNICAL DATA

**PRODUCT:** DRAQ5™

**CATALOG NUMBER:** NBP2-81125 (5 mM), NBP2-81129 (0.5 mM)

**PRESENTATION:** aqueous solution.

**STORAGE:** store at 2-8 °C. DO NOT FREEZE

## DESCRIPTION:

DRAQ5™ is a novel far-red fluorescing DNA dye used for LIVE, permeabilized and fixed cells. It binds DNA with high affinity and stoichiometry. It can be used in combination with common visible range fluors, including FITC and R-PE and is compatible with common buffers. DRAQ5™ is highly compatible with existing protocols and a broad range of cytometry and microscopy instruments.

## APPLICATIONS:

- Flow Cytometry – live (or fixed)  
Nucleated cell gating (no lyse, no wash), Cell cycle analysis
- Fluorescence Microscopy - live (or fixed)
- HCS & Cell-Based Assays  
Drug, RNAi, phenotypic screens, In-cell westerns

## BEFORE STARTING:

Read the MSDS. Wear protective clothing, safety goggles and laboratory gloves. Check the concentration of DRAQ5™ stated on the vial label.

## MATERIALS OFTEN REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED:

Phosphate-Buffered Saline (PBS, without azide), culture medium, plastic-ware paraformaldehyde, Triton-X 100, Tween-20, antibodies, blocking solution.

**NOTE:** As with any cell-permeant DNA intercalating probe, DRAQ5™ may inhibit cell division in long-term assays and should be tested for any effect.

## DETECTING DRAQ5™ SIGNALS: (see Fig. 1)

**Flow cytometry:** DRAQ5™ can be excited by blue, green, yellow and red laser sources. Detect using longpass or bandpass filters above 660 nm and into the infra-red e.g. 780/60 BP. For DNA content, select a filter above 700 nm. Exclude doublets and reduce acquisition rates.

**Microscopy / HCS Imaging Platform:** DRAQ5™ is optimally excited using yellow/red wavelengths. It is detected with far-red filters above 660 nm. For DNA content, segment nuclear signals before measuring and detect above 700 nm, if possible.

## EXAMPLE PROTOCOLS

As no washing is required, DRAQ5™ is added last, prior to analysis. \*Use 200 µl per coverslip; 100 ul per 96-MTP well, 30 ul per 384-MTP well, 10 ul per 1536-MTP well.

### PROTOCOL 1:

#### CELL CYCLE ANALYSIS / NUCLEATED CELL GATING BY FLOW / IMAGING CYTOMETRY

1. Prepare cells for staining with DRAQ5 (TM): resuspend cells in appropriate buffer (PBS) at a concentration of  $\leq 4 \times 10^5$  / ml in a test tube. For adherent cells estimate the number of cells based on confluence level or tissue section size.
2. Add DRAQ5™ at 10-20 µM, final concentration. (Gating nucleated cells, this may be reduced to 5-10 µM). This will be an overlay for adherent cells / tissue sections, added to the well directly or in fresh medium following a wash step.
3. Gently mix, then incubate for 15-30 minutes at room temperature. n.b. protect from light. Staining is accelerated at 37°C.
4. Analyze without further treatment / washing. n.b. analyze live cells within 2 h. DRAQ5™ stains live, fixed, permeabilized and dead cells.

## SPECTRAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Exλ<sub>max</sub> 600/646 nm Emλ<sub>max</sub> 697 nm

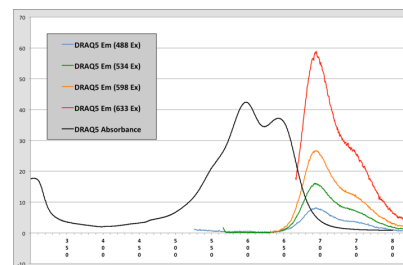


Fig. 1. Spectral profile of DRAQ5™

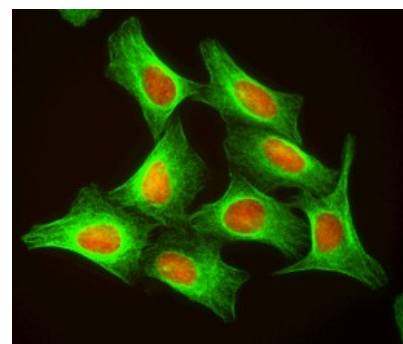


Fig. 2. DRAQ5™ (red) counterstaining of fixed U2OS cells. AlexaFluor 488 antibody to β-tubulin (green).

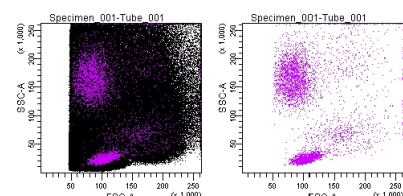


Fig.3 No lyse, no wash gating of nucleated cells from whole bone marrow gating on DRAQ5™ signal.

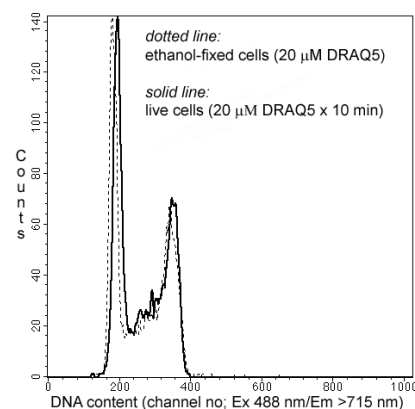


Fig. 4. DNA content analysis in live or fixed cells

# DRAQ5 (TM) TECHNICAL DATA

## PROTOCOL 2:

### LIVE CELL COUNTERSTAINING FOR HCS IMAGING PLATFORM OR FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY

1. Wash and aspirate the slide or well.
2. Overlay cells with DRAQ5 (TM) - final concentration 5  $\mu$ M. See guideline volumes above\*
3. Incubate for 15-30 minutes at room temperature. For time-lapsed assays (e.g. studying translocation of an EGFP tagged protein) DRAQ5 (TM) may be added to the assay medium for the duration of the assay (typically 0.5 - 3 hr.) at 1  $\mu$ M prior to any agonist / antagonist addition. n.b. protect from light. Staining is accelerated at 37°C.
4. Analyze without further treatment / washing. DRAQ5 (TM) stains intact, live, permeabilized and dead cells. False color DRAQ5 images red for simplicity.

## PROTOCOL 3:

### FIXED CELL COUNTERSTAINING FOR HCS IMAGING PLATFORM OR FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY

#### A. SEPARATE FIXATIVE & COUNTERSTAIN (e.g. when external (immuno-)fluorescent stains are applied):

1. Prepare separate working solutions of 4% formaldehyde (FA) and 5  $\mu$ M DRAQ5 (TM) in PBS.
2. Overlay slide or well with 4% FA. Incubate for 15-30 minutes at room temperature (RT) / 37°C.
3. Gently aspirate FA, and wash with PBS.
4. Perform any necessary permeabilization, (immuno-)staining and blocking steps.
5. Wash with PBS to remove any residual Triton X-100, if used, and aspirate the sample. Overlay cells with DRAQ5 (TM). See guideline volumes above\*. Incubate for 10-20 minutes at RT. n.b. protect from light.
6. Analyze without further treatment / washing. False color DRAQ5 (TM) images red for simplicity.

#### B. COMBINED FIXATIVE & COUNTERSTAIN (e.g. when expressed fluorescent protein is the only analyte):

1. Prepare separate working solutions of 8% formaldehyde (FA) and 10  $\mu$ M DRAQ5 in PBS.
2. Overlay the slide or well with equal 0.5 volumes\* of FA and DRAQ5 (TM) solutions. **Alternatively**, pre-mix DRAQ5 (TM) and FA working solutions to overlay. See guideline volumes above\*
3. Incubate for 10-20 minutes at room temperature. n.b. protect from light.
4. Analyze without further treatment / washing. False color DRAQ5 (TM) images in red for simplicity.

## PROTOCOL 4:

### CELL ENUMERATION FOR "IN-CELL WESTERNS"

1. Seed cells at 5-6,000 cells per 96-well microtiter plate and treat with inhibitors, etc.
2. Fix cells: add 0.5 volumes of 12% formaldehyde (final concentration 4%). Incubate for 1 h. at room temperature (RT).
3. Wash the cells with PBS. Repeat twice. Aspirate.
4. Permeabilize the cells with PBS/0.1% Triton X-100. Repeat twice. Aspirate.
5. Apply blocking solution. Incubate for 2 h. at RT. Aspirate.
6. Apply unlabeled 1<sup>o</sup> antibody, in blocking solution. Incubate for 2 h. at RT. Aspirate.
7. Wash with PBS/0.1% Tween-20. Repeat x2. Aspirate.
8. Add diluted labeled 2<sup>o</sup> antibody and DRAQ5 (TM) to 5  $\mu$ M in PBS/0.5% Tween-20. Incubate for 1 h. at RT. Protect from light.
9. Repeat step 7 once.
10. Measure on a fluorescence plate reader against a standard curve from known cell numbers.

#### KEY REFERENCES:

Smith, P.J. et al. (2000) Cytometry 40: 280-291  
Martin, R.M. et al. (2005) Cytometry 67A: 45-52  
Bjornsson, S. et al. (2008) Cytometry 74B: 91-103  
Edward, R. (2012) Meth. Enzymol. Vol. 505:23-45

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