

Nasal, Bronchial, Small-Airways and Alveolar 3D human Models for Inhalation toxicity and Infectious Diseases Research

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3D ALI airway epithelia products | MucilAir™ | SmallAir™ | AlveolAir™

EPITHELIX



Reconstitution process | MucilAir™









Reconstitution process SmallAir[™] | AlveolAir[™] Macrophages







MucilAir™ | Electron Microscopy picture of the cilia



MucilAir[™] healthy apical top view (SEM x10K)





Cilia-X | Cilia Beating Frequency measurement

Epithelix developed Cilia-X, a dedicated platform to measure cilia beating frequencies.



MucilAir[™] healthy apical top view (phase contrast 5X, real time)





Mucociliary clearance (MCC) | analysis



MucilAir[™] healthy apical top view (phase contrast 5X, real time)





Mucociliary clearance (MCC) | pathologic example with MucilAir-CF (Cystic EPITHELIX Fibrosis)



MucilAir[™]-Healthy apical top view (phase contrast 5X, real time)



MucilAir[™]-Cystic Fibrosis apical top view (phase contrast 5X, real time)

Comparison of particles velocities between MucilAir[™]-Normal, MucilAir[™]-COPD and MucilAir[™]-CF



Epithelix internal study

Velocity (µm/s)





AlveolAir™ Characterisation











AlveolAir™ Characterisation – Histology – Electron microscopy







Exposure systems | Examples

Static Exposure

Liquids - Solutions



Solids (tablets)



Vitrocell[®] Epithelix Nanopress

Gas or smoke



Dynamic Exposure



Nebulized liquid



VITROCELL Vitrocell[®] Cloud Alpha Dry Powder



VITROCELL Vitrocell[®] Powder chamber



3D in vitro ALI airway epithelia for

Inhalation toxicity assessment



Evaluation of inhalation toxicity of inhaled xenobiotics/drugs





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Evaluation of inhalation toxicity of inhaled xenobiotics/drugs





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Prediction of respiratory Toxicity

vitro

A 3D human airway model enables prediction of respiratory toxicity of inhaled drugs *in*

Kinga Balogh Sivars^{1†}*, Ulf Sivars^{4†}, Ellinor Hornberg^{4†}, Hui Zhang^{3†}, Lena Brändén^{3†}, Rosy Bonfante⁵, Song Huang⁵, Samuel Constant⁵, Ian Robinson^{2††}, Catherine J Betts^{3††} and Per Åberg^{2†}







15 compounds tested 88% sensitivity 100% specificity

Toxicol Sci. 2018 Mar 1;162(1):301-308.

Toxicity Testing example | Repeated Dose Toxicity







First transposition of the OECD 413 guideline in vitro

Example of a 90 days repeated dose exposure study on MucilAir[™]. 6 hours per day exposure to Formaldehyde for a period of 90 days. Every day, tissue Integrity (TEER) were measured (N=3) then epithelia were reused for the next exposure. (Epithelix internal study)

Prediction of respiratory Toxicity using MucilAir™



ENV/CBC/MONO(2022)31

Unclassified English - Or. English 1 September 2022

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE CHEMICALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Case Study on the use of an Integrated Approach for Testing and Assessment (IATA) for New Approach Methodology (NAM) for Refining Inhalation Risk Assessment from Point of Contact Toxicity of the Pesticide, Chlorothalonil.

Series on Testing and Assessment No. 367





Replacement of a 90 Days rat inhalation study (OECD TG413) using MucilAir[™]

Evaluation of inhalation toxicity of inhaled xenobiotics/drugs





Systemic delivery of compound or pro-inflammatory challenge



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Pro-inflammatory monitoring using AlveolAir™



Repeated daily exposure of pro-inflammatory compounds on AlveolAir[™]

Stimulus	Diesel	LPS	HDM	TNF-alpha	Poly(I=C)	Cytomix
Concentration [mg/mL]	1.67	0.2	20	5 ·10 ⁻⁴	10	0.2 LPS + 5·10 ⁻⁴ TNF-alpha + 1 % FBS
Exposure	Apical (10 µL)	Apical (10 µL)	Apical (10 µL)	Apical (10 µL)	Apical (10 µL)	Basal (700µL)





3D in vitro ALI airway epithelia for

Antiviral evaluation



In vitro antiviral testing using MucilAir™/ SmallAir™/ AlveolAir™



Rhinovirus HRV-A16 HRV-B14 HRV-C15



Influenza A (H1N1 and H3N2) Influenza B



Respiratory Enterovirus EV-68





Coronavirus OC 43 SARS-CoV-2



Respiratory Syncytial Virus RSV-A RSV-B



Others

Metapneumovirus Parainfluenza virus 3

Inhibition of virus replication using antivirals



Reference antivirals inhibit viral production in a dose dependent manner in MucilAir™

Boda et al. Antiviral drug screening by assessing epithelial functions and innate immune responses in human 3D airway epithelium model Antiviral research. 2018





SARS-CoV-2 cell tropism



SARS-CoV-2 infects mainly ciliated and goblet cells

Pizzorno et al., Characterization and treatment of SARS-CoV-2 in nasal and bronchial human airway epithelium Cell Reports Medicine, 2020





SARS-CoV-2 impairs cilia function



SARS-CoV-2 impairs mucociliary clearance on MucilAir™

Robinot et al., SARS-CoV-2 infection damages airway motile cilia and impairs mucociliary clearance, Nature, 12, 4354, 2021

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Antiviral evaluation of novel therapies against SARS-CoV-2 on MucilAir™





Antiviral evaluation of combos against SARS-CoV-2 on MucilAir™



Jonsdottir et al., Molnupiravir combined with different repurposed drugs further inhibits SARS-CoV-2 infection in human nasal epithelium in vitro Biomed Pharmacother., 2022





What's next: Novel advanced fully primary human immunocompetent models





- Primary lung Macrophages / Neutrophiles
- Fully primary airway tissues

- Standard Transwell culture support
- Fibroblasts or endothelial cells layer
- Serum free and chemically defined culture medium



Conclusion

- effect of inhaled xenobiotics on:
 - ✓ Local tolerance
 - ✓ Respiratory absorption
 - ✓ Mucociliary clearance
 - ✓ Mucosal inflammation
 - ✓ Respiratory disease induction (lung fibrosis, metaplasia)
- Airway epithelia are efficient platforms to evaluate antiviral and antibiotics strategies.

macrophages, dendritic cells and neutrophils.



Nasal, Bronchial, Small-Airways and Alveolar 3D human Models are useful tools to evaluate

• Assays need to be developed on emergent immunocompetent models integrating alveolar





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Thank you for your attention

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