

EMEM (MEM Eagle), w: 2 mM L-Glutamine, w: 1.5 g/L NaHCO₃, w: EBSS, w: 1 mM Sodium pyruvate, w: NEAA | 820100c

One of the most widely used synthetic cell culture media is Minimum Essential Medium Eagle (MEM). Developed by Harry Eagle, this medium was first introduced in 1959 and has since become a popular choice for various cell types grown in monolayers and adherent cell lines.

This EMEM medium consists of 2 mM L-Glutamine, 1.5 g/L NaHCO₃, EBSS, 1 mM Sodium pyruvate, and NEAA.

What's in EMEM?

EMEM is a modified version of Eagle's minimum essential medium, containing Earle's Balanced Salt Solution, non-essential amino acids, L-glutamine, sodium pyruvate, and sodium bicarbonate. It's important to note that this reduced level of sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃, 1.5 g/L) is intended for use in 5% CO₂ in the air. To maintain its effectiveness, storing the medium at two °C to 8°C in the dark when not in use is recommended.

What is EMEM used for?

Eagle's minimal essential medium (EMEM) is a cell culture medium that can maintain cells in tissue culture. The medium contains higher concentrations of amino acids, allowing for a more accurate approximation of the protein composition of cultured mammalian cells. EMEM may be used to cultivate various cells, including fibroblasts, human liver cancer cell line (HepG2) cells and human fetal brain progenitor-derived astrocyte cells (PDA). It is typically used in the presence of fetal bovine serum (FBS), calf, or horse sera.

How is EMEM different from other cell culture media?

While EMEM and Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) share some similarities, they also differ. Both media lack protein and contain the amino acids, salts, glucose, and vitamins required to provide a cell with energy and maintain it in tissue culture. However, the DMEM formulation is modified to contain up to four times more vitamins and amino acids and two to four times more glucose than EMEM. It's worth noting that EMEM is also different from the original MEM formulation.

Quality control

- pH = 7.2 +/- 0.02 at 20-25°C.
- Each lot has been tested for sterility and absence of mycoplasma and bacteria.

Maintenance

- Keep refrigerated at +2°C to +8°C in the dark. Freezing and warming up to +37° C minimize the quality of the product.
- Do not heat the medium to more than 37° C or use uncontrollable sources of heat (e.g., microwave appliances).
- If only a part of the medium is to be used, remove this amount from the bottle and warm it up at room temperature.
- Shelf life for any medium except for the basic medium is 8 weeks from the date of manufacture.

Composition

	Components	mg/L
Inorganic Salts	Calcium chloride x 2H ₂ O	264,92
	Magnesium sulfate	97,67
	Potassium chloride	400,00
	Sodium chloride	6,800.00

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	Sodium dihydrogen phosphate x H2O	140,00
Other Components	D(+)-Glucose	1,000.00
	Phenol red	10,00
	Sodium pyruvate	110,00
	NaHCO3	1,500.00
Amino Acids	L-Alanine	8,90
	L-Arginine x HCl	126,00
	L-Asparagine x H2O	13,20
	L-Aspartic acid	13,30
	L-Cystine	24,00
	L-Glutamine	292,30
	L-Glutamic acid	14,70
	Glycine	7,50
	L-Histidine x HCl x H2O	42,00
	L-Isoleucine	52,00
	L-Leucine	52,00
	L-Lysine x HCl	72,50
	L-Methionine	15,00
	L-Phenylalanine	32,00
	L-Proline	11,50

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	L-Serine	10,50
	L-Threonine	48,00
	L-Tryptophan	10,00
	L-Tyrosine	36,00
	L-Valine	46,00
Vitamins	D-Calcium pantothenate	1,00
	Choline chloride	1,00
	Folic acid	1,00
	myo-Inositol	2,00
	Nicotinamide	1,00
	Pyridoxal x HCl	1,00
	Riboflavin	0,10
	Thiamine x HCl	1,00