

Handling alvetex®

All procedures concerning the handling of alvetex® should be performed wearing gloves according to standard aseptic methods required for cell culture in a Class I/II cabinet.

- When dry, alvetex® is reasonably fragile with a wafer-like consistency; however once rehydrated the discs become much more robust. Therefore handle the material carefully when performing any manipulation including media changes, transferring the discs for analysis, fixing and embedding for histology, etc. When using forceps, exercise care as manipulating the scaffold can damage its structure. Try to handle the alvetex® discs around the edges only.
- When dispensing liquids (e.g. 70% EtOH, PBS and medium) over alvetex®, place the end of the pipette tip towards the wall of the culture vessel avoiding touching the scaffold. If using the 12-well plate format, retain cylindrical clip in place. Well inserts should be fed from the outside: place the end of the pipette tip towards the wall of the culture vessel (either by going through the window of the well insert or beside it). Let the liquid rise gently to touch the base of the well insert and if required dispense the rest of the solution into the well insert to prevent it from floating. Seed cells on the middle of the disc without touching the membrane itself.

In the 12-well plate format, the alvetex® is held in place by a polystyrene clip that can easily be removed to release the disc for analysis of the cultured cells (Figure 1.)



Figure 1. Alvetex® discs can easily be removed from the 12-well plate using flat ended forceps (Fisher Scientific, MNK-155-M).

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In well insert formats, the alvetex® membrane can be removed using forceps (Figure 2. A & B) or can be cut out using a scalpel with a size 11 blade (C & D).

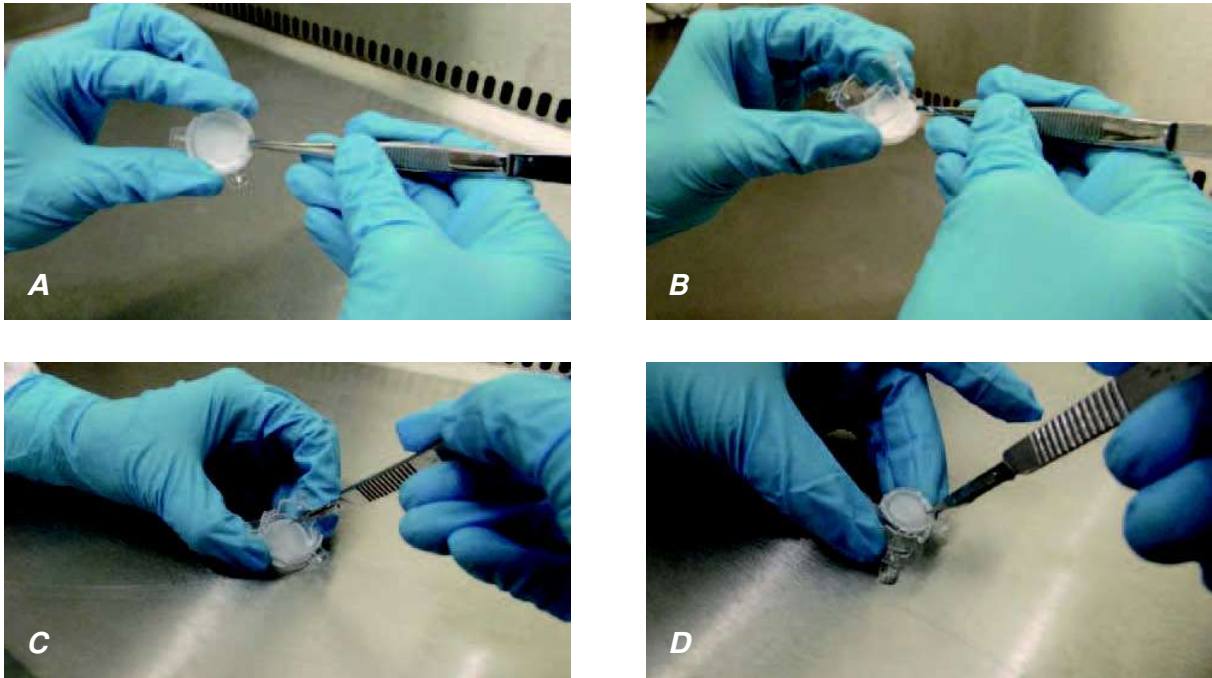


Figure 2. Removal of alvetex® disc from well-insert. Unclip the base of the well insert all the way around (A), and pull down to release the disc (B). Alternatively the disc can be cut out by holding the well insert upright (C) or upside down (D).

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