

Immunomagnetic cell sorting - comparison of methods

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Purification of cells is often used to demonstrate specific functions of a cell subset. This purification can be achieved either by flow sorting or by separation with magnetic beads. Several considerations must be taken into account before choosing the appropriate methods for separation. Beside the obvious point of available instruments, some points to think about are price, no. of separations, no. of parameters needed for separation, quality of cells and purity. Although the purity generally are lower with magnetic beads compared to flow sorting, many assays work quite well, and may even give the same results, compared to sorting. Examples of how we have used magnetic beads in our studies will be demonstrated.