# Preparation of CulturePro dishes

The CulturePro dish is designed specifically for the culture of embryos in the CulturePro incubator.
The culture dishes are made of polystyrene certified for use in IVF procedures. The culture dishes have four culture wells with four compartments each, and each dish thus holds up to 16 embryos.
The culture dishes are delivered as individually packed, sterile dishes in convenient handling pouches.
Correct registration of patient information is ensured by the barcode label system.
Vitrolife recommends preparing the CulturePro dishes a day before use. Prepare the dishes on a non-heated surface to avoid evaporation, and equilibrate them overnight before use.

## The CulturePro dish

Embryos are cultured under group culture conditions and individually identified by placement in separately numbered compartments within each culture well (fig. 1).
The CulturePro dish has four culture wells, each divided into four compartments by a cross-shaped fence.
Each culture compartment carries a number from 1 to 16 for identification under a stereo microscope (figure 1).
The complete culture area is covered by a common oil layer.

Four large rinsing wells are available outside the culture compartments. These special wells can be used during embryo handling (identified as A-D).

Each batch of CulturePro dishes must pass our MEA testing procedure before being released for sale as part of our Vitrolife quality assurance.

## CulturePro dish preparation

Prepare the CulturePro dish a day before use. Prepare one dish at a time to minimise the handling time for each dish.

CulturePro dishes should be prepared with cold medium and oil and on a non-heated surface to avoid evaporation of medium during preparation.

When the CulturePro dish has been prepared, the dish must be equilibrated overnight before embryos are loaded into the culture compartments. Bubbles must be removed before the loading of embryos.

Use a stereo microscope to control the process.
The recommended procedure for preparing the culture dish is outlined on the next page.

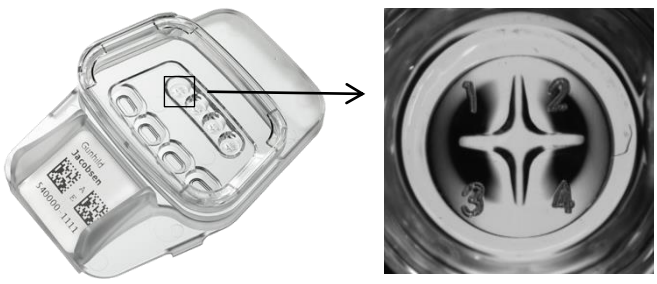
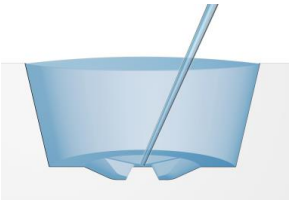
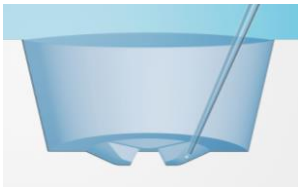



*Figure 1*
*Each culture well in the CulturePro dish is separated into four compartments by a cross. The culture compartments are numbered from 1 to 16.*

| Step | Action |
|---|---|
|  | **Remove the dish from the pouch.**<br>**Prepare the dish with cold culture medium and oil on a non-heated workbench to avoid evaporation.**<br>**Prepare one dish at a time to minimise the handling time for each dish.** |
|  | **Fill each culture well with 50 µl of medium* using a standard pipette.**<br>The tip of the pipette must touch the middle of the cross that forms the four available compartments at the bottom of each culture well. This should prevent the formation of bubbles in the medium. |
|  | **Fill each rinsing well with 100 µl of medium*.**<br>This is optional. Add 100 µl of oil for each unused rinsing well.<br><br>**Immediately load 1.6 ml of culture oil* into the reservoir.**<br>Apply the oil quickly to avoid evaporation of medium. Make sure that all wells, including rinsing wells, are covered with a confluent oil layer to prevent evaporation of medium. |
|  | **In case of bubble formation, push up the bubble with a micropipette and remove it.**<br><br>**Cover the dish with the lid and let it equilibrate overnight.**<br>**Identify and remove any bubbles under a stereo microscope.**<br>Attach the barcode label to the dedicated labelling area on the dish. |
|  | **Load embryos into the culture compartments.**<br>Place the dish in the CulturePro incubator.<br><br>**If you want to change medium during the culture period:**<br>Remove 25 µl of medium from each well and add 50 µl of new, equilibrated warm medium using a standard pipette. During the procedure remove and add the medium in a constant flow and place the pipette tip at position 3, 6, 9 or 12 as far away from the embryos as possible. |

* Vitrolife recommends using G-series medium and OVOIL Heavy™ 100% paraffin culture oil. Vitrolife products are produced under highly controlled processes.