Cancer is a diverse collection of diseases linked to genetic changes that affect normal cell function, and metabolic reprogramming is emerging as a critical target in therapeutic intervention. Cancer cells are highly dependent on metabolic pathways to generate the necessary energy for many oncogenic processes – rapid proliferation, survival, invasion, and metastasis – and will reprogram their metabolism to support these processes.

Today, researchers use a variety of cell-based assays such as gene and RNA expression, protein quantification, flow cytometry, and mass spectrometry – to further their understanding of cancer biology. Investigating the dynamic nature of cellular metabolism and how cancer cells reprogram their metabolism to adapt and survive using functional measurements in real-time can reveal metabolic liabilities. These metabolic liabilities can then be exploited for therapeutic targeting.

Agilent Seahorse XF Cell Analysis solutions in cancer research

Generate functional measurements in real-time

The Agilent Seahorse XF platform provides a direct measure of *simultaneous measurements of OXPHOS and glycolytic rate, in live cells, in real-time*. Using this technology phenotypic evaluation of cancer cells in response to different metabolic substrates or inhibitors can be evaluated.

**Agilent XF cell analysis features**

- Live cell
- Real-time
- Label-free
- Dynamic injection ports
- Simultaneously measures oxygen consumption and glycolytic rates
- Provides quantitative glycolysis rates
- Measures quantitative ATP production rates

Discover why cancer researchers are using Agilent XF Cell Analysis technology to investigate:

- Metabolic drivers of oncogenic phenotypes
- Cancer cell malignancy & plasticity
- Substrate utilization in the tumor microenvironment
- Metabolic vulnerabilities to inform druggable target identification
- Cancer cell survival
Cancer cell dependencies and adaptation strategies go beyond glycolysis

**Measure the variabilities in metabolic phenotype driving cancer vulnerabilities**

Cancer is a metabolic disease, which often characterized by a "Warburg effect" with upregulated glycolysis. However, metabolic phenotypes are substantially variable, and can serve as a critical predictor of cancer proliferation, vulnerabilities, and resistance to therapies. Agilent cell analysis provides a direct measure of functional live cell metabolism that illuminates cancer vulnerabilities driving cancer cell progression and proliferation.

**Cancer metabolic phenotype and vulnerabilities are highly variable**

Oxidative rates are variable

![Graph A](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Glycolysis:oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) ratio is variable

![Graph B](https://via.placeholder.com/150)


**Cancer cells' metabolic profile reflects altered bioenergetic requirements to support proliferation**

Bioenergetics correlates with cancer proliferation and vulnerabilities

![Graph A](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

![Graph B](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Cancer cells are dynamic

**Rapid changes in metabolism are a critical strategy in chemoresistance**

Cancer proliferation is a rapid and dynamic process that demands significant biochemical energy. As a result, cancer cells exhibit an altered metabolism that may rely on one or both of the main metabolic pathways, glycolysis or oxidative phosphorylation. The ability of some cancer cells to switch between pathways is a key strategy driving cancer cell adaptation. Agilent cell analysis products enable simultaneous measurements of the two major metabolic pathways in live cells, in real-time.

**Cancer cells rapidly exploit metabolism to adapt and survive through metabolic plasticity**

![Graph](image)

Figure 3. Chemosensitive ovarian cancer cell lines (A2780 and PEO1) displayed a glycolytic phenotype. In contrast, their chemoresistant isogenic counterparts (C200 and PEO4) exhibited a highly metabolically active phenotype with the ability to switch between oxidative phosphorylation or glycolysis (plasticity). Dar, S., et al. Bioenergetic Adaptations in Chemoresistant Ovarian Cancer Cells. Sci Rep. 2017. 7 (1): 8760.

**Metabolic vulnerabilities can reveal therapeutic targets for chemoresistance**

![Graph](image)

Figure 4. Agilent Seahorse XF analysis reveals that the increased chemosensitivity of cisplatin in IDH1\textsuperscript{MUT} cells is due to heightened vulnerability of oxidative phosphorylation metabolism. Cisplatin treatment in IDH1\textsuperscript{MUT} HCT116 cells dose dependently decreased their oxygen consumption rate (OCR). Khurshed, M., et al. IDH1-mutant cancer cells are sensitive to cisplatin and an IDH1-mutant inhibitor counteracts this sensitivity. FASEB J. 2018. fj201800547R.
Discover cancer cells' substrate dependencies

Cancer cells may alter lipid or amino acid metabolism, or shift the balance between anabolic and catabolic processes to adapt to the nutritional conditions of the tumor microenvironment. These processes may be analyzed directly via metabolic measurements.

Discover how Agilent cell analysis technology and metabolic phenotyping can provide a window into:

- Cellular dependencies, including fuels and microenvironment
- Metabolic vulnerabilities to inform druggable target identification
- Cancer drug development and efficacy

**Agilent Seahorse XF technology reveals potential targets and mechanisms for antitumor and radiosensitizing drugs**

**Figure 5.** The Agilent Seahorse XF Analyzer reveals the critical role of Nur77 and TPβ in melanoma cells adapting to fatty acid oxidation (FAO) under low glucose conditions. As FAO adaptation facilitates melanoma cell survival, Nur77 is implicated as a potential therapeutic target in melanoma. Li, X., et al. Nuclear Receptor Nur77 Facilitates Melanoma Cell Survival under Metabolic Stress by Protecting Fatty Acid Oxidation. Mol Cell. 2018. 69 (3): 480-492 e7.

**Agilent Seahorse XF technology differentiates the mechanisms of two lactate uptake inhibitors and antitumor drugs in whole cells and isolated mitochondria**

**Figure 6.** The Seahorse XF Analyzer first determined that, unlike lactate inhibitor AR-C155858, the compound 7ACC2 fulfills the tasks of blocking lactate use while preventing oxidative metabolism of glucose. (56, whole cells). Using isolated mitochondria, the Seahorse XF Analyzer further reveals that 7ACC2 works to inhibit lactate uptake via inhibition of the mitochondrial pyruvate carrier, which is a novel mechanism (6b, isolated mitochondria). Corbet, C., et al. Interruption of lactate uptake by inhibiting mitochondrial pyruvate transport unravels direct antitumor and radiosensitizing effects. Nat Commun. 2018. 9 (1): 1208.
The gold standard assays for measuring cancer

**Agilent Seahorse XF Real-Time ATP Rate Assay Kit (Cat No. 103592-100 & 103591-100)**

![ATP Production Rate Graph](image)

**Agilent Seahorse XF Glycolytic Rate Assay Kit (Cat No. 103344-100 & 103346-100)**

![Glycolytic Rate Graph](image)

Discover cancer vulnerabilities, plasticity, and metabolic phenotyping with simultaneous measurements of oxidative phosphorylation and glycolysis, for a comprehensive picture of what’s driving your cells function. *Now quantitative with the Agilent Seahorse XF Glycolytic Rate Assay and Real-Time ATP rate assay.*

**Agilent Seahorse XF Cell Mito Stress Test Kit (Cat No. 103015-100 & 103010-100)**

![Cell Mito Stress Test Graph](image)

**Agilent Seahorse XF Palmitate-BSA FAO Substrate (Cat No. 102720-100)**

![Palmitate FAO Graph](image)

Assess fuel and substrate utilization using the Agilent Seahorse XF Cell Mito Stress Test kit and Palmitate-BSA FAO substrate.

**Agilent Seahorse XF Plasma Membrane Permeabilizer (Cat No. 102504-100)**

![Plasma Membrane Permeabilizer Graph](image)

Perform the same assays you would perform on isolated mitochondria, without actually isolating mitochondria.

Seahorse XF real-time assays provide the tools for studying dependencies, oncogenes, therapeutic targeting, and more.

Model the tumor microenvironment:

- Agilent Seahorse XFe24 and XFe96 Analyzers are compatible with a hypoxia chamber
- The Seahorse XFe96 Analyzer provides a spheroid-3D option
Agilent Cell Analysis Portfolio

Our market leading technologies in real-time live cell analysis have helped researchers push new boundaries across a number of research areas. Learn about our complete portfolio of solutions by visiting our website at www.agilent.com/chem/discoverxf

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