

1
2
3

JAST (Journal of Animal Science and Technology) TITLE PAGE

Upload this completed form to website with submission

ARTICLE INFORMATION	Fill in information in each box below
Article Type	Research article
Article Title (within 20 words without abbreviations)	Effects of culture temperature (37°C, 39°C) and oxygen concentration (20%, 2%) on proliferation and differentiation of C2C12 cells
Running Title (within 10 words)	Effects of culture temperature and oxygen concentration on muscle cells
Author	Gyutae Park ¹ , Sanghun Park ¹ , Sehyuk Oh ¹ , Nayoung Choi ¹ , Jungseok Choi ¹
Affiliation	1 Department of Animal Science, Chungbuk National University, Cheongju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do 28644, Korea, Republic of
ORCID (for more information, please visit https://orcid.org)	Gyutae Park (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1614-1097) Sanghun Park (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4804-0848) Sehyuk Oh (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4105-2512) Nayoung Choi (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4782-1098) Jungseok Choi (https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8033-0410)
Competing interests	No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.
Funding sources State funding sources (grants, funding sources, equipment, and supplies). Include name and number of grant if available.	This work was supported by Korea Institute of Planning and Evaluation for Technology in Food, Agriculture and Forestry(IPET) through the High Value-added Food Technology Development Project, funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs(MAFRA)(321028-5). "Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS)" through the National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education(MOE)(2021RIS-001).
Acknowledgements	This work was supported by Korea Institute of Planning and Evaluation for Technology in Food, Agriculture and Forestry(IPET) through the High Value-added Food Technology Development Project, funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs(MAFRA)(321028-5). "Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS)" through the National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education(MOE)(2021RIS-001).
Availability of data and material	Upon reasonable request, the datasets of this study can be available from the corresponding author.
Authors' contributions Please specify the authors' role using this form.	Conceptualization: Park GT, Choi JS. Data curation: Park GT, Park SH. Formal analysis: Park GT, Oh SH. Methodology: Park GT, Park SH. Software: Oh SH, Choi NY. Validation: Park SH, Choi JS. Investigation: Park GT, Oh SH. Writing - original draft: Park GT, Oh SH, Choi NY. Writing - review & editing: Park GT, Park SH, Oh SH, Choi NY, Choi JS.
Ethics approval and consent to participate	This article does not require IRB/IACUC approval because there are no human and animal participants.

4
5

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR CONTACT INFORMATION

For the corresponding author (responsible for correspondence, proofreading, and reprints)	Fill in information in each box below

First name, middle initial, last name	Jungseok Choi
Email address – this is where your proofs will be sent	jchoi@chungbuk.ac.kr
Secondary Email address	
Address	342 ho, S21-5, 1, Chungdae-ro, Seowon-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea (28644)
Cell phone number	+82-10-3235-2127
Office phone number	+82-43-261-2551
Fax number	+82-43-273-2240

6
7

ACCEPTED

8 **Abstract**

9 Cells, culture media, and so on are important elements of cultured meat production technology. Also, the environment
10 (humidity, temperature, air composition, dissolved oxygen tension, etc.) for *in vivo* muscle production are important.
11 Among cell culture conditions, culture temperature and oxygen concentration are important physical factors that can
12 affect cells. The objective of this study was to determine effects of culture temperature and oxygen concentration on
13 proliferation and differentiation of muscle cells. This study was conducted using C2C12 cells of rat myoblasts widely
14 used in muscle physiology. The temperature was chosen to induce some thermal stress at 39 °C, and the oxygen
15 concentration was selected at 2% to mimic the oxygen levels present in muscle cells *in vivo*. Culture conditions
16 consisted of CON (37°C/20% O₂), T1 (37°C/2% O₂), T2 (39°C/20% O₂) and T3 (39°C/2% O₂). In terms of cell
17 proliferation, temperature conditions had a significant impact ($p<0.05$), and a temperature of 39 °C was found to reduce
18 the cell count. Oxygen conditions had a significant impact on MTS absorbance, and temperature conditions were
19 found to have a greater influence on cell proliferation compared to oxygen condition and interaction condition. The
20 temperature conditions were found to have a significant impact ($p<0.05$) on the expression of proteins related to
21 myogenesis compared to oxygen conditions. The significant increase ($p<0.05$) in the protein expression levels of Myh,
22 Myod1, Myog, and Mb in T2 compared to CON, and in T3 compared to T1, suggests that a temperature of 39 °C
23 enhances the expression of myogenic differentiation proteins. These results indicate that temperature conditions have
24 a significant impact ($p<0.05$) on cell proliferation and differentiation, more so than oxygen conditions and interaction
25 conditions. And a temperature of 39 °C was found to inhibit cell proliferation, but in the case of differentiation, it was
26 observed to be promoted due to the upregulation of myogenic differentiation proteins.

27
28 **Keywords:** Culture conditions, C2C12 myoblast cell, Differentiation, Oxygen, Proliferation, Temperature

30 **Introduction**

31 Globally, per capita meat consumption and total meat consumption are increasing as economies grow and populations
32 increase [1]. The current world population is approximately 7.8 billion, and it is projected to increase to 9.6 billion by
33 2050 [2]. As a result, it has reached a situation where food and meat production must be further increased. However,
34 in recent years, there has been a growing notion that conventional meat production via livestock has high greenhouse
35 gas emissions, energy, and land use [3, 4]. Thus, alternative ways of meat production are needed. As an alternative,
36 cultured meat is being studied with the aim of solving problems related to animal welfare and sustainability issues [5].
37 Important elements of cultured meat production technology include cells, animal-derived and synthetic materials,
38 culture media, scaffolds, which mimic the *in vivo* muscle-generating environment (humidity, temperature, air
39 composition, dissolved oxygen tension, etc.) [6, 7]. The cultivation temperature and oxygen concentration have been
40 reported to have a significant impact on the physiological activity of cells [8-11]. Heat stress is a state that happen
41 when a live-stock is unable to expel heat produced or absorbed by the body to maintain internal heat balance [12]. In
42 living cells, heat stress is one of the environmental stresses that can negatively affect and change cell metabolism. It
43 can inhibit protein synthesis, change protein folding and function, and change metabolism and membrane fluidity [13-
44 15]. However, depending on the intensity and duration of applied heat, its effects on muscle cell activity are different

45 [16]. Mild heat stress can increase mitochondrial biogenesis in cells with a positive effect on mitochondrial oxidative
46 phosphorylation in skeletal muscle [17, 18]. Increased mitochondrial biogenesis ultimately produces ATP by
47 enhancing mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation [19]. In addition, mild heat stress promotes cell proliferation and
48 differentiation [2, 20]. Oxygen and glucose are important for cellular respiration because aerobic respiration during
49 glycolysis provides more ATP per glucose molecule than anaerobic respiration [21]. In addition, cells not only can
50 utilize oxygen for ATP resynthesis, but also can detect oxygen levels and respond to low oxygen concentration with
51 adaptations regulated by signaling proteins such as hypoxia-inducible factors [22]. The average concentration of
52 physiological oxygen in skeletal muscle is about 2.3% to 6.0% [23]. Previous studies have reported that culturing
53 muscle cells in a hypoxic environment similar to physiological oxygen concentrations enhances proliferation [2, 24-
54 28]. However, the effect of interactively applying heat stress and hypoxia on production capacity of cells for cell
55 culture meat production has been hardly studied. Therefore, this study aimed to analyze the impact of heat stress and
56 hypoxic conditions on the proliferation and differentiation of muscle cells.

57 58 **Materials and Methods**

59 **Cell culture and experimental design**

60 C2C12 cells used in the experiment were purchased from ATCC® (CRL-1772TM 79). All experiments used
61 Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium (DMEM) (Gibco, Waltham, MA, USA) as the culture medium for cell growth,
62 to which 10% of fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Corning, Corning, NY, USA) and 1% of Penicillin-Streptomycin-
63 Amphotericin B Mixture (PSA) (Lonza, Basel, Swiss) were added. In the case of the medium for differentiation,
64 DMEM supplemented with 1% PSA and 2% FBS was used as a medium. In the case of proliferation during cell
65 experiments, 1,800 cells per cm² T25-flask were seeded. Cells were cultured in an incubator under CON conditions
66 (37°C, 20% O₂), an incubator under T1 conditions (37°C, 2% O₂), an incubator under T2 conditions (39°C, 20% O₂),
67 and an incubator under T3 conditions (39°C, 2% O₂) for 5 days. CO₂ concentration was the same at 5%. Oxygen
68 concentration was adjusted using N₂ gas. In the case of differentiation, 1,800 cells per cm² T25-flask were seeded and
69 cultured in the same conditions as proliferation conditions. When the cells in the flask became confluent, the growth
70 medium was aspirated by suction and washed with phosphate buffered saline solution (PBS) (SH30256.01, Cytiva,
71 Marlborough, MA, USA). Then proceed with differentiation by replacing with differentiation medium.

72 73 **Preparation of coated flask**

74 The flask used for all culture experiments was used after coating to facilitate cell attachment and growth. Collagen
75 coating solution was manufactured by diluting 1M acetic acid (A0052, Samchun chemicals, Seoul, Korea) in distilled
76 water to a concentration of 2% of the solution and then adding a 5 mg/mL collagen solution (A1064401, Gibco) to a
77 concentration of 0.5% to solubilize the collagen. After the collagen solution was dispensed into the flask. Before using
78 in the experiment, the coating solution was removed by suction and the flask was washed twice with PBS. Matrigel
79 coating solution was manufactured by diluting Matrigel solution in cold PBS to a concentration of 0.05% of the
80 solution. Before using it in the experiment, the coating solution was removed by suction and the flask was washed
81 with PBS.

82

83 **Cell count (total, live, dead cell number) and 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-**
84 **sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium (MTS) assay**

85 Cell count assay and MTS assay were performed when cells became confluent (5 days). Attached cells were added
86 with 0.05% trypsin-EDTA (25300-062, Gibco) for 3 minutes. Using a pipette, content of each flask was moved to a
87 50 ml tube and centrifuged at 352xg for 5 minutes using a centrifuge. Suctioned out the supernatant, added media to
88 the pelleted cells, and stained the cells with Trypan Blue (T8154, Sigma-Aldrich, Saint louis, MO, USA) The number
89 of cells was counted using a cell counter (AMQAX2000, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). MTS assay was performed
90 using C2C12 cells cultured in a 96-well plate. After removing culture medium, MTS reagent (G3582, Promega,
91 Madison, WI, USA) was then dispensed into each well and absorbance was measured at 490 nm.

92

93 **Immunofluorescence staining**

94 Proliferation proceeded on the 5th day and differentiation proceeded on the 3rd day. After aspirating the medium, 2%
95 paraformaldehyde (SM-P01-050, GeneAll Biotechnology, Seoul, Korea) was added and incubated at 37°C for 45
96 minutes. Washed twice with PBS. And it was incubated at room temperature for 20 minutes using 0.1% Triton X
97 (T8787, Sigma-Aldrich). They were then incubated for 30 minutes in 2% BSA (10738328103, Roche, Basel, Swiss)
98 at room temperature. Then, the flask was washed with PBS. For proliferation, cells were treated with anti-Pax7. For
99 differentiation, cells were treated with anti-MyoD, anti-Myosin and Anti-Desmin followed by incubation at 4°C
100 overnight. Washed twice with 0.05% Tween 20 and incubated with secondary antibody Alexa Fluor 488 (A21121,
101 Invitrogen) and finally Hoechst 33342 reagent (H3570, Invitrogen). Thereafter, after washing twice with 0.05% Tween
102 20 (1706531, Hercules, CA, Bio-rad), immunofluorescence-stained C2C12 myoblast cells were observed using an
103 microscope (EVOS-5000, Invitrogen). For image data, the total number of nuclei, the number of cell nuclei in myotube
104 and the fusion index were calculated using Image J program (NIH) by a skilled expert.

105

106 **Western blotting**

107 To cool the T25 flask, the medium was aspirated on ice and washed once with PBS. After adding RIPA lysis buffer
108 (MB-030-0050, Rockland, USA) to the flask, the cells were separated with a cell scraper. Extracted proteins were
109 quantified by Bradford assay. Extracted proteins were separated by electrophoresis on a gel (4561024, Bio-rad).
110 Proteins in the gel were transferred to membranes (1620175, Bio-rad). Membranes were blocked by incubation in
111 blocking buffer (EveryBlot, Bio-rad) at room temperature for 1h. Incubate overnight at 4 °C with primary antibodies
112 to measure Myh, Myod1, Myog, Mb and Actb. Membranes were then washed with Tris-Buffered Saline (1706435,
113 Bio-rad) with 0.1% Tween 20 (1706531, Bio-rad)(TBST) 4 times (10 minutes each time) and incubated with Affinity
114 Purified Goat Anti-Mouse IgG (H+L) HRP-conjugated or Affinity Purified Goat HRP-conjugated Anti-Rabbit IgG
115 (H+L) for 1h at room temperature. After washing again with TBST 4 times (10 min each time), Clarity western ECL
116 substrate (1705061, Bio-rad) was dispensed to detect proteins. After detection, Western Blot Stripping Buffer (21059,
117 Thermo scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) was dispensed to treat membrane for 1 hour. Membranes were then stored,
118 or proteins were detected by performing the same process again using blocking buffer.

119

120 **Reverse transcription and quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)**

121 mRNA was conducted on cells from the 3 day of differentiation, extracted using Total RNA Extraction Kit (iNtRON
122 Biotechnology, Seongnam, Korea). mRNA was converted to cDNA using High-Capacity cDNA Reverse
123 Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems, Waltham, MA, USA). mRNA was converted to cDNA using High-Capacity
124 cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems, Waltham, MA, USA) as followed: 25°C for 10 min, at 37°C
125 for 2 h, and at 85°C for 5 min. Gene amplification was performed using Fast qPCR 2×SYBR Green Master Mix
126 (Applied Biosystems). Gene amplification was performed for 40 cycles as followed cycle: 50°C for 2 min and 95°C
127 for 10 min; 15 secs at 95°C; 1 min at 53°C; 15 secs at 95°C; 1 min at 53°C. The target gene were *Myod1*, *Mb*, *Myog*,
128 *Myh2* and *Gapdh*. Relative gene expression was calculated using the 2^{-ΔΔCt} method [28]. Primers used for analysis
129 were *Myod1* (forward (F)) 5'-AGCTTCTGTCTCCCTTCATC-3' and (reverse (R)) 5'-
130 CACAACCAAGGTCCTATTCA-3'; *Mb* (F) 5'-GGAAGTCCTCATCGGTCTGT-3' and (R) 5'-
131 GCCCTTCATATCTTCCTCTGA-3'; *Myh2* (F) 5'-AGCAGCGACACTGAAATGGA-3' and (R) 5'-
132 GTTGTCGTTCTCACGGTCT-3'; *Myog* (F) 5'-GCCCAGTGAATGCAACTCCCACA-3' and (R) 5'-
133 CAGCCGCGAGCAAATGATCTCCT-3'; *Gapdh* (F) 5'-GTGGCAAAGTGGAGATTGTTGCC-3' and (R) 5'-
134 GATGATGACCCGTTTGCTCC-3'.

135

136 **Statistical analysis**

137 All data were tested by two-way Analysis of variance (ANOVA). All data were statistically verified for statistical
138 significance using the statistical processing program SAS (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). Duncan's multiple range
139 test was used to compare significant differences in measured values and a p-value of less than 0.05 was considered
140 statistically significant.

141

142 **Results**

143 **1. Proliferation capacity of C2C12 cells**

144 To investigate effects of temperature and oxygen concentration conditions on muscle cell proliferation, C2C12 cells
145 were grown under different temperatures (37°C, 39°C) and oxygen concentrations (20%, 2%) for 5 days. Table 1
146 shows cell count results of C2C12 according to temperature and oxygen concentration. Total cell number and live cell
147 number were significantly higher in CON and T1 under a temperature condition of 37°C than those in T2 and T3
148 under a temperature condition of 39°C ($p<0.05$). As shown in Figure 1, MTS assay and immunofluorescence staining
149 were performed to confirm proliferative capacity. Absorbance value of the MTS assay indicates mitochondrial activity
150 of cells, which was significantly higher in CON and T1 ($p<0.05$). The number of nuclei obtained by
151 immunofluorescence staining was also significantly higher in CON and T1 ($p<0.05$). Table 2 shows influence of each
152 condition and interaction through two way-ANOVA statistics for all experimental results. In the case of temperature,
153 it affected total cell number ($p<0.05$), live cell number ($p<0.05$), MTS absorbance ($p<0.0001$), and nuclei number
154 ($p<0.0001$), whereas oxygen concentration condition had little effect.

155

156 **2. Differentiation capacity of C2C12 cells**

157 Next, effects of temperature and oxygen concentration on differentiation were investigated. After C2C12 cells became
158 confluent under the same temperature and oxygen conditions, they were differentiated for 3 days at different

159 temperature (37°C, 39°C) and oxygen concentration (20%, 2%) conditions. Resulting myotubes were fixed,
160 immunofluorescence stained for Myosin and Desmin, and counterstained with DAPI. Plates were imaged and
161 myogenesis was quantified by measured the number of nuclei in myotube and the fusion index. In addition, relative
162 mRNA expression levels of *Myog*, *Mb*, *Myh2*, and *Myod1* as important genes for muscles were measured using RT-
163 qPCR. Protein expression levels of Myh, Myod1, Myog and Mb were measured by Western blotting. Figure 2 shows
164 results of immunofluorescence staining, number of myotube nuclei, and fusion index after differentiation of C2C12
165 cells. Based on the photograph of Fig. 2(A), numbers of myotube nuclei and fusion index were measured. Myotube
166 nuclei showed no significant difference ($p>0.05$). The fusion index showed a significantly higher value at T3 than at
167 T1 ($p<0.05$). In Table 2, myotube area had a significant effect at the temperature and oxygen conditions ($p< 0.05$).
168 The fusion index tended to be affected by temperature conditions and Tem x Oxy conditions ($p< 0.1$) (Table 2).

169

170 **3. Expression levels of muscle-related genes of C2C12 cells**

171 Figure 3 shows results of relative mRNA expression levels of *Myog*, *Mb*, *Myh2*, and *Myod1* using RT-qPCR and
172 Western blotting pictures of myotube formation on day 3. In the case of *Myog*, it showed the highest value in T3. Its
173 expression level in T3 was significantly higher than that in T1 or T3 with 2% oxygen concentration or that in CON or
174 T2 with 20% oxygen concentration ($p<0.05$). *Mb* and *Myh2* levels were the highest in T3. Their expression levels
175 were significantly higher when the temperature was 39°C than those when the temperature was 37°C ($p<0.05$). In the
176 case of *Myod1*, it had a significantly higher value in T3 than in CON ($p<0.05$). Temperature conditions significantly
177 affected expression levels of *Myog* ($p<0.05$), *Mb* ($p<0.0001$), and *Myh2* ($p< 0.0001$). Oxygen concentration
178 significantly affected *Myog* ($p<0.001$), and *Myod1* ($p<0.05$). (Table 2).

179

180 **4. Expression level of muscle-related protein in C2C12 cells**

181 Figure 4(A) is a photograph of fluorescence intensity measured by Western blot for Myh, Myod1, Myog, Mb and
182 Actb. Figure 4(B) shows results of fold change for CON by normalizing fluorescence intensity with beta-actin, a
183 housekeeping gene. Expression of Myh was significantly higher in T3 than in CON ($p<0.05$). Its expression was
184 higher at 39°C than that at 37°C. Expression of Myod1 was significantly higher in T2 and T3 when the culture
185 temperature was 39°C. But there was no significant difference between treatment groups at the same culture
186 temperature and different oxygen concentrations ($p<0.05$). Expression of Myog was significantly higher in T2 and T3
187 at 39°C than in CON and T1 at 37°C ($p<0.05$). When the culture temperature was the same with different oxygen
188 concentration, significantly lower values were found at 2% in T1 and T3 than at 20% in CON and T2. In the case of
189 Mb, there was no significant difference according to oxygen concentration. However, T2 and T3 treatment groups
190 with a culture temperature of 39°C showed significantly higher expression levels than CON and T1 with a culture
191 temperature of 37°C ($p<0.05$). Temperature conditions affected expression levels of Myh ($p<0.0001$), Myod1
192 ($p<0.001$), Myog ($p<0.0001$), and Mb ($p<0.0001$). Oxygen concentration only significantly affected the expression of
193 Myog ($p<0.001$). In the interaction conditions (Tem X Oxy), it had a significant impact on the expression levels of
194 Myod1 ($p<0.001$) and Myog ($p<0.0001$). (Table 2).

195

196 **Discussion**

197 Our results showed that heat treatment of C2C12 cells at 39°C inhibited cell proliferation compared to normal
198 temperature and oxygen environment. However, heat treatment at 39°C during differentiation promoted muscle
199 differentiation of C2C12 cells by increasing muscle-related gene expression and protein content. In contrast, oxygen
200 conditions had smaller effects than temperature conditions. In living cells, heat stress is one of the environmental
201 stresses that can negatively affect protein synthesis, protein folding and function changes, and cellular metabolism
202 changes. In addition, it can cause dysfunction of mitochondria of cells and reduce the ability to breathe [29].
203 Mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation dysfunction results from the generation of ROS. ROS generation and
204 mitochondrial dysfunction can lead to apoptosis [30,31]. Previous studies have shown that exposure of C2C12 cells
205 to 40°C for 12 to 24 hours can result in accumulation of autophagosomes and increased expression of markers for
206 oxidative stress and apoptosis [32]. In addition, high-temperature heat stress can increase ROS in myoblasts in both
207 cells and induces apoptosis [33]. Therefore, it was considered that heat treatment at 39°C in this study induced
208 apoptosis and the number of cells was low. Since the MTS assay and nuclei number results were similar to cell count
209 results, it could be concluded that heat treatment at 39°C significantly lowered cell number ($p<0.05$). When the effect
210 of each condition was confirmed through two-way ANOVA, the temperature of 39°C during C2C12 cell culture
211 negatively affected total number of cells and living cells. Oxygen concentration is considered to have a low effect on
212 cell proliferation. Heat treatment at 39°C and low oxygen concentration showed positive effects on differentiation.
213 Myotube content and fusion index are commonly measured for quantitative evaluation of myotubes [34-36]. The
214 content and maturity of myotubes play a crucial role in determining the efficiency of cultured meat production. [37].
215 When 39°C and 2% oxygen concentration were applied, the fusion index was significantly higher than that at 37°C
216 and 2% oxygen concentration. The enhancement of myotube area and fusion index appears to have been influenced
217 by an increase in the expression levels of myogenic-related genes or proteins. Myosin is a representative structural
218 protein of muscle cells, serving as a key component of filaments that enable muscle contraction and relaxation [38].
219 Myogenin is a sequence that causes myoblasts to undergo myoblast differentiation, allowing myoblasts to exit the cell
220 cycle and fuse to form multinucleated myofibrils [39]. MyoD is involved in the specification of myoblasts. It plays an
221 important role in initiating myoblast differentiation [40]. Myoglobin can act as an oxygen transporter in response to
222 mitochondrial demand [41]. Heat treatment at 39°C and hypoxia at 2% induced gene expression level and protein up-
223 regulation of Myoglobin during differentiation. Quinting reported [42] that when Myoglobin was knocked down in
224 cancer cells, the ability to remove ROS and NO decreased, leading to an increase in cell necrosis. Similarly to
225 Quinting's research, this result also suggests that the temperature of 39°C increased ROS, leading to the upregulation
226 of Myoglobin for ROS removal. However, since no experiments related to ROS were conducted in this study, further
227 research is necessary. Based on the above results, it has been shown that a temperature of 39°C during the
228 differentiation process increases the expression levels of Myh, Myog, Myod1, and Mb proteins, thereby promoting
229 differentiation. In this study, the effects of heat treatment at 39°C and hypoxia on the gene expression and protein
230 expression related to the growth and differentiation of muscle cells were confirmed. This suggests that the conditions
231 of 39°C and 2% oxygen may be utilized for efficient cell-cultured meat production. However, increasing temperature
232 and reducing oxygen using N₂ gas may not be economically favorable. Further research is needed to investigate the
233 economic aspects, which were not performed in this study.

234 We investigated effects of temperature and oxygen conditions on cells for technological development of cell cultured
235 meat production. Results of this study showed that heat treatment at 39°C had a negative effect on total cell number

236 and live cell number in cell proliferation compared to normal temperature at 37°C, suppressing proliferation. However,
237 oxygen concentration did not have a significant effect on proliferation. On the other hand, during differentiation, heat
238 treatment at 39°C and hypoxic concentration had a positive effect on myogenic differentiation based on expression
239 levels of Myh, Myod1, Myog, and Mb genes and proteins related to myogenesis and formation. Based on results
240 shown above, it is expected that proliferation proceeds with normal oxygen concentration during cell cultured meat
241 production and that hypoxia and high heat treatment will promote muscle differentiation and have a positive effect in
242 the case of differentiation. However, since this study used a cell line C2C12, additional experiments are needed using
243 primary cells that can be directly obtained from livestock such as Holstein, Hanwoo, and Porcine, which are used for
244 cell-cultured meat. Furthermore, economic aspects related to temperature and oxygen should also be considered when
245 they are directly utilized in cell-cultured meat production.
246

247 **Acknowledgments**

248 This work was supported by Korea Institute of Planning and Evaluation for Technology in Food, Agriculture and
249 Forestry(IPET) through the High Value-added Food Technology Development Project, funded by Ministry of
250 Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs(MAFRA)(321028-5). by "Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS)" through the
251 National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education(MOE)(2021RIS-001).
252
253

254

References

- 255 1. Godfray HCJ, Aveyard P, Garnett T, Hall JW, Key TJ, Lorimer J, et al. Meat consumption, health, and the
256 environment. *Science*. 2018;361(6399):eaam5324. <https://doi.org/10.5187/10.1126/science.aam532>
- 257 2. Park S, Gagliardi M, Swennen G, Dogan A, Kim Y, Park Y, et al. Effects of Hypoxia on Proliferation and
258 Differentiation in Belgian Blue and Hanwoo Muscle Satellite Cells for the Development of Cultured Meat.
259 *Biomolecules*. 2022;12(6):838.<https://doi.org/10.3390/biom12060838>
- 260 3. Tuomisto HL. The eco-friendly burger: could cultured meat improve the environmental sustainability of meat
261 products? *EMBO reports*. 2019;20(1):e47395. <https://doi.org/10.15252/embr.201847395>
- 262 4. Post MJ. Cultured meat from stem cells: Challenges and prospects. *Meat Sci*. 2012;92(3):297-301.
263 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meatsci.2012.04.008>
- 264 5. Post MJ, Levenberg S, Kaplan DL, Genovese N, Fu J, Bryant CJ, et al. Scientific, sustainability and regulatory
265 challenges of cultured meat. *Nature Food*. 2020;1(7):403-15. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-0112-z>
- 266 6. Bhat ZF, Fayaz H. Prospectus of cultured meat—advancing meat alternatives. *J Food Sci Technol*. 2011;48:125-
267 40. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13197-010-0198-7>
- 268 7. Stephens N, Di Silvio L, Dunsford I, Ellis M, Glencross A, Sexton A. Bringing cultured meat to market:
269 Technical, socio-political, and regulatory challenges in cellular agriculture. *Trends Food Sci Technol*.
270 2018;78:155-66. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2018.04.010>
- 271 8. Clark DL, Coy CS, Strasburg GM, Reed KM, Velleman SG. Temperature effect on proliferation and
272 differentiation of satellite cells from turkeys with different growth rates. *Poult Sci*. 2016;95(4):934-947.
273 <https://doi.org/10.3382/ps/pev437>
- 274 9. Liu H, Yang M, Wu G, Yang L, Cao Y, Liu C, Tan Z, Jin Y, Guo J, Zhu L. Effects of different oxygen
275 concentrations on the proliferation, survival, migration, and osteogenic differentiation of MC3T3-E1 cells.
276 *Connect Tissue Res*. 2019;60(3):240-253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03008207.2018.1487413>
- 277 10. Mas-Bargues C, Sanz-Ros J, Román-Domínguez A, Inglés M, Gimeno-Mallench L, El Alami M, Viña-Almunia
278 J, Gambini J, Viña J, Borrás C. Relevance of oxygen concentration in stem cell culture for regenerative medicine.
279 *Int J Mol Sci*. 2019;20(5):1195. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms20051195>
- 280 11. Somero GN. The cellular stress response and temperature: Function, regulation, and evolution. *J Exp Zool A:*
281 *Ecol Integr Physiol*. 2020;333(6):379-397. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jez.2344>
- 282 12. Bernabucci U, Biffani S, Buggiotti L, Vitali A, Lacetera N, Nardone A. The effects of heat stress in Italian
283 Holstein dairy cattle. *J Dairy Sci*. 2014;97(1):471-86. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2013-6611>

- 284 13. Risha MA, Ali A, Siengdee P, Trakooljul N, Haack F, Dannenberger D, et al. Wnt signaling related transcripts
285 and their relationship to energy metabolism in C2C12 myoblasts under temperature stress. PeerJ. 2021;9:e11625.
286 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.11625>
- 287 14. Collier R, Collier J, Rhoads R, Baumgard L. Invited review: genes involved in the bovine heat stress response. J
288 Dairy Sci. 2008;91(2):445-54. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2007-0540>
- 289 15. Zhao L, McMillan RP, Xie G, Giridhar SG, Baumgard LH, El-Kadi S, et al. Heat stress decreases metabolic
290 flexibility in skeletal muscle of growing pigs. American Journal of Physiology-Regulatory, Integrative and
291 Comparative Physiology. 2018;315(6):R1096-R106. <https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpregu.00404.2017>
- 292 16. Yamaguchi T, Suzuki T, Arai H, Tanabe S, Atomi Y. Continuous mild heat stress induces differentiation of
293 mammalian myoblasts, shifting fiber type from fast to slow. American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology.
294 2010;298(1):C140-C8. <https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpcell.00050.2009>
- 295 17. Liu C-T, Brooks GA. Mild heat stress induces mitochondrial biogenesis in C2C12 myotubes. J Appl Physiol.
296 2012;112(3):354-61. <https://doi.org/10.1152/jappphysiol.00989.2011>
- 297 18. Zoladz JA, Koziel A, Woyda-Ploszczyca A, Celichowski J, Jarmuszkiewicz W. Endurance training increases the
298 efficiency of rat skeletal muscle mitochondria. Pflügers Archiv-European Journal of Physiology. 2016;468:1709-
299 24. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00424-016-1867-9>
- 300 19. Joseph A-M, Pilegaard H, Litvintsev A, Leick L, Hood DA. Control of gene expression and mitochondrial
301 biogenesis in the muscular adaptation to endurance exercise. Essays Biochem. 2006;42:13-29.
302 <https://doi.org/10.1042/bse0420013>
- 303 20. Choi Y, Chen P, Shin S, Zhang J, Hwang S, Lee K. Mild heat stress enhances differentiation and proliferation of
304 Japanese quail myoblasts and enhances slow muscle fiber characteristics. Poult Sci. 2016;95(8):1912-7.
305 <https://doi.org/10.3382/ps/pew116>
- 306 21. Li W, Hu Z-F, Chen B, Ni G-X. Response of C2C12 myoblasts to hypoxia: the relative roles of glucose and
307 oxygen in adaptive cellular metabolism. BioMed research international. 2013;2013.
308 <https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/326346>
- 309 22. Pircher T, Wackerhage H, Akova E, Böcker W, Aszodi A, Saller MM. Fusion of normoxic-and hypoxic-
310 preconditioned myoblasts leads to increased hypertrophy. Cells. 2022;11(6):1059.
311 <https://doi.org/10.3390/cells11061059>
- 312 23. Ast T, Mootha VK. Oxygen and mammalian cell culture: are we repeating the experiment of Dr. Ox? Nature
313 metabolism. 2019;1(9):858-60. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42255-019-0105-0>
- 314 24. Beaudry M, Hidalgo M, Launay T, Bello, V, Darribère T. Regulation of myogenesis by environmental hypoxia.
315 J Cell Sci. 2016;129(15):2887-2896. <https://doi.org/10.1242/jcs.188904>

- 316 25. Koning M, Werker PM, van Luyn MJ, Harmsen MC. Hypoxia promotes proliferation of human myogenic
317 satellite cells: a potential benefactor in tissue engineering of skeletal muscle. *Tissue Eng Part A*. 2011;17(13-
318 14):1747-1758. <https://doi.org/10.1089/ten.tea.2010.0624>
- 319 26. Kook SH, Son YO, Lee KY, Lee HJ, Chung WT, Choi KC, Lee JC. Hypoxia affects positively the proliferation
320 of bovine satellite cells and their myogenic differentiation through up-regulation of MyoD. *Cell Biol Int*,
321 2008;32(8):871-878. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cellbi.2008.03.017>
- 322 27. Urbani L, Piccoli M, Franzin C, Pozzobon M, De Coppi P. Hypoxia increases mouse satellite cell clone
323 proliferation maintaining both in vitro and in vivo heterogeneity and myogenic potential. *PLoS one*,
324 2012;7(11):e49860. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0049860>
- 325 28. Livak KJ, Schmittgen TD. Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2-
326 $\Delta\Delta CT$ method. *Methods*. 2001;25(4):402-8. <https://doi.org/10.1006/meth.2001.1262>
- 327 29. Sajjanar B, Siengdee P, Trakooljul N, Liu X, Kalbe C, Wimmers K, et al. Cross-talk between energy metabolism
328 and epigenetics during temperature stress response in C2C12 myoblasts. *Int J Hyperthermia*. 2019;36(1):775-83.
329 <https://doi.org/10.1080/02656736.2019.1639834>
- 330 30. Kamogashira T, Fujimoto C, Yamasoba T. Reactive oxygen species, apoptosis, and mitochondrial dysfunction
331 in hearing loss. *BioMed Research International*. 2015;2015. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2015/617207>
- 332 31. Jeong C-H, Joo SH. Downregulation of reactive oxygen species in apoptosis. *Journal of cancer prevention*.
333 2016;21(1):13. <https://doi.org/10.15430/JCP.2016.21.1.13>
- 334 32. Summers CM, Valentine RJ. Two hours of heat stress induces MAP-kinase signaling and autophagosome
335 accumulation in C2C12 myotubes. *Cell Biochem Biophys*. 2022;80(2):367-73. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12013-021-01054-0>
- 337 33. Lu J, Li H, Yu D, Zhao P, Liu Y. Heat stress inhibits the proliferation and differentiation of myoblasts and is
338 associated with damage to mitochondria. *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*. 2023;11:1171506.
339 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcell.2023.1171506>
- 340 34. O'Leary MF, Wallace GR, Bennett AJ, Tsintzas K, Jones SW. IL-15 promotes human myogenesis and mitigates
341 the detrimental effects of TNF α on myotube development. *Sci Rep*. 2017;7(1):12997.
342 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-13479-w>
- 343 35. Xu J, Liu D, Yin H, Tong H, Li S, Yan Y. Fatty acids promote bovine skeletal muscle satellite cell differentiation
344 by regulating ELOVL3 expression. *Cell Tissue Res*. 2018;373:499-508. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00441-018-2812-3>
- 346 36. Grefte S, Wagenaars JA, Jansen R, Willems PH, Koopman WJ. Rotenone inhibits primary murine myotube
347 formation via Raf-1 and ROCK2. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA)-Molecular Cell Research*.
348 2015;1853(7):1606-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamcr.2015.03.010>

- 349 37. Guan X, Yan Q, Ma Z, Zhou J. Production of mature myotubes in vitro improves the texture and protein quality
350 of cultured pork. *Food Funct.* 2023;14(8):3576-87. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D3FO00445G>
- 351 38. Gash MC, Kandle PF, Murray IV, Varacallo M. Physiology, muscle contraction. In *StatPearls* [Internet].
352 StatPearls Publishing. 2022.
- 353 39. Wright WE, Sassoon DA, Lin VK. Myogenin, a factor regulating myogenesis, has a domain homologous to
354 MyoD. *Cell.* 1989;56(4):607-17.
- 355 40. Langley B, Thomas M, Bishop A, Sharma M, Gilmour S, Kambadur R. Myostatin inhibits myoblast
356 differentiation by down-regulating MyoD expression. *J Biol Chem.* 2002;277(51):49831-40.
357 <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M204291200>
- 358 41. Wittenberg JB, Wittenberg BA. Myoglobin function reassessed. *J Exp Biol.* 2003;206(12):2011-2.
359 <https://doi.org/10.1242/jeb.00243>
- 360 42. Quinting T, Heymann AK, Bicker A, Nauth T, Bernardini A, Hankeln T, et al. Myoglobin protects breast cancer
361 cells due to its ROS and NO scavenging properties. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2021;12:732190.
362 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fendo.2021.732190>

363

364

365

Tables and Figures

366

Table 1. Cell counts of C2C12 at different incubation temperatures and oxygen concentrations

Treatments	CON (37°C/20% O ₂)	T1 (37°C/2% O ₂)	T2 (39°C/20% O ₂)	T3 (39°C/2% O ₂)
Total cell number	2.44x10 ⁶ ±3.75X10 ^{5a}	2.32x10 ⁶ ±4.31X10 ^{5a}	1.13x10 ⁶ ±1.34X10 ^{5b}	1.41x10 ⁶ ±1.06X10 ^{5b}
Live cell number	2.35X10 ⁶ ±3.61X10 ^{5a}	2.15x10 ⁶ ±3.68X10 ^{5a}	1.05x10 ⁶ ±1.13X10 ^{5b}	1.36x10 ⁶ ±1.20X10 ^{5b}
Dead cell number	9.21X10 ⁴ ±1.41X10 ^{4ab}	1.63x10 ⁵ ±6.01X10 ^{4a}	7.62x10 ⁴ ±2.06X10 ^{4ab}	5.57x10 ⁴ ±1.65X10 ^{4b}

367

a-b Means with different superscriptions within the same row differ significantly ($p < 0.05$).

368

369

ACCEPTED

Table 2. Two-way ANOVA statistical analysis results (interaction effect)

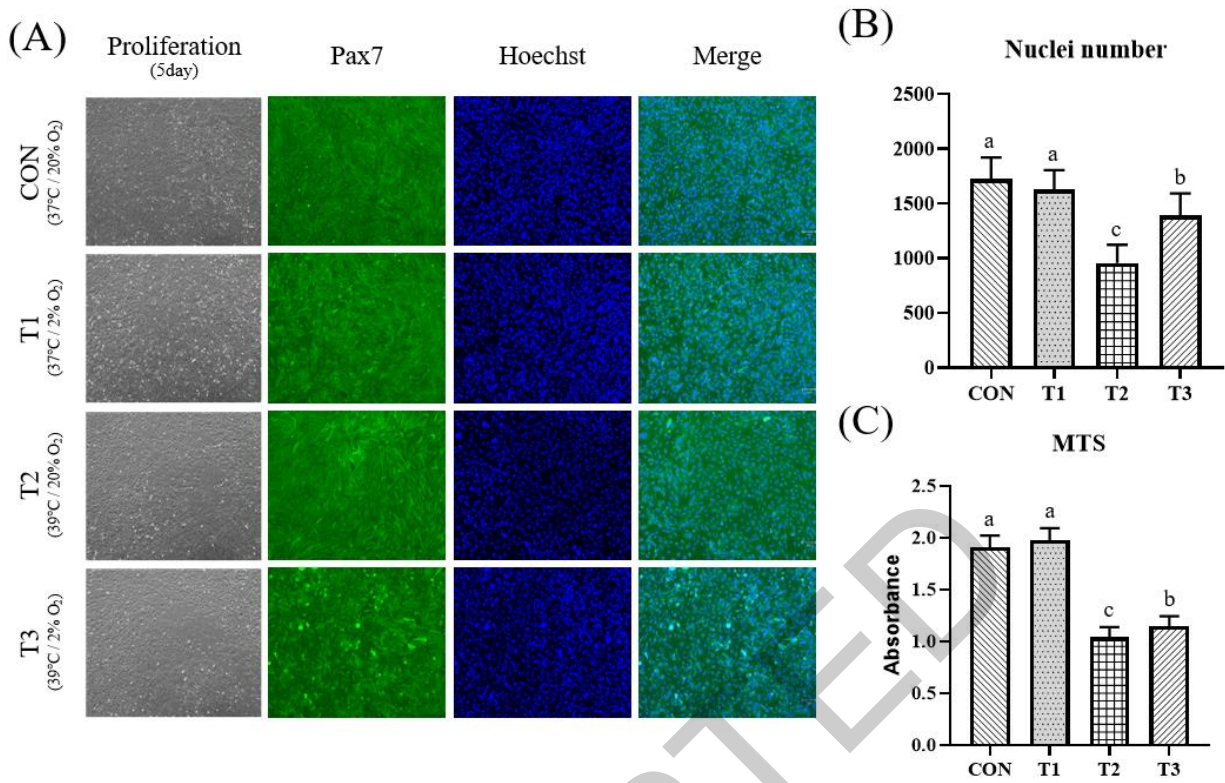
Items	p -value		
	Temperature	Oxygen	Tem x Oxy
Total cell number	0.0062	0.7237	0.3966
Live cell number	0.0055	0.7879	0.2611
Dead cell number	0.0610	0.3522	0.1283
Nuclei number	<.0001	0.1150	<.0001
MTS ¹⁾ Absorbance	<.0001	0.0052	0.6305
Myotube area	0.0764	0.0450	0.0247
Fusion index	0.0733	0.5495	0.0605
<i>Myh2</i> (Gene)	<.0001	0.0731	0.1119
<i>Myod1</i> (Gene)	0.3449	0.0233	0.8687
<i>Myog</i> (Gene)	0.0274	0.0001	0.1110
<i>Mb</i> (Gene)	<.0001	0.2587	0.7152
Myh (Protein)	<.0001	0.5140	0.3336
Myod1 (Protein)	<.0001	0.0779	0.0004
Myog (Protein)	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
Mb (Protein)	<.0001	0.2587	0.7152

371

¹⁾ MTS : 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium

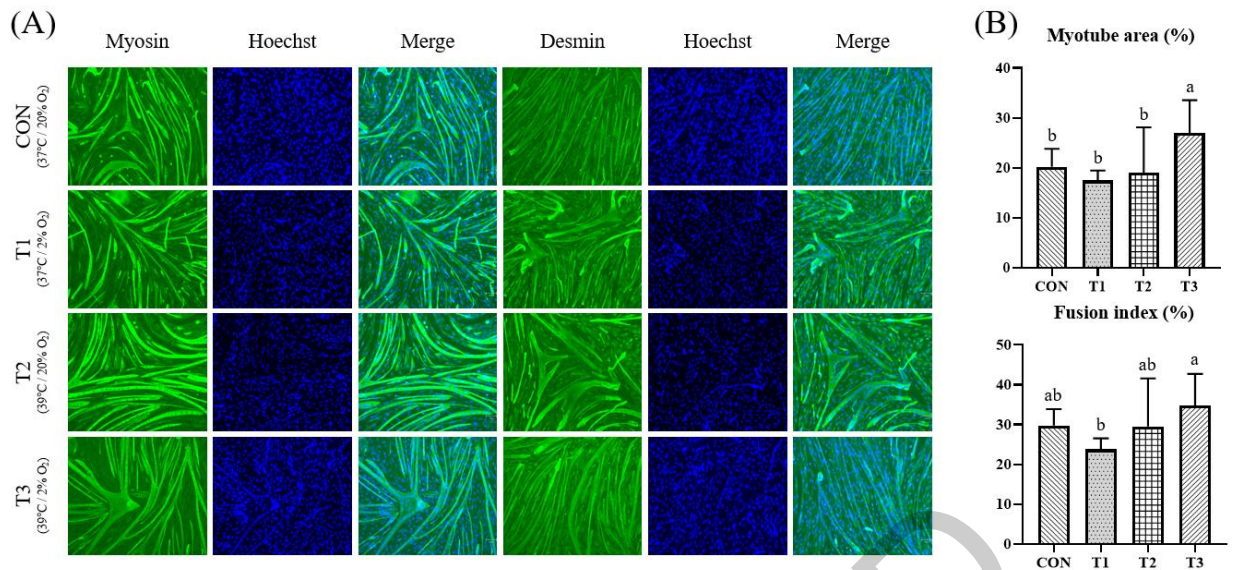
372

373



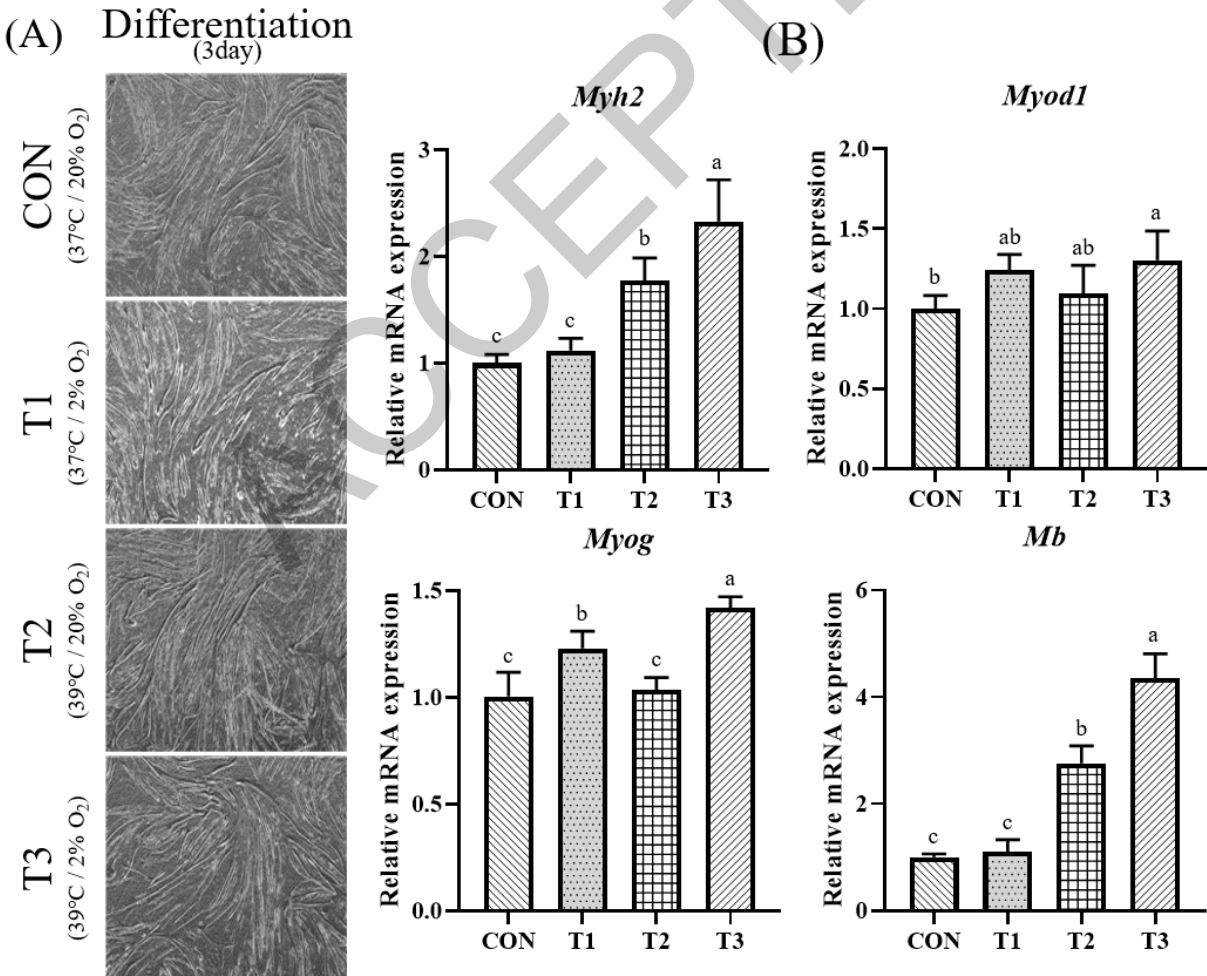
374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381

Figure 1. (A) Photographs of cells on the 5th day of proliferation in a T25 flask under each condition (x40) and images of cells in 96 wells after immunofluorescence staining with Pax7 and Hoechst staining nuclei (x100), (B) Results of measuring absorbance using MTS assay after growing cells in a 96-well plate for 5 days under each condition ($p < 0.05$), (C) Results of measuring the number of nuclei per picture using the Image J program after immunofluorescence staining using Hoechst ($p < 0.05$).



382

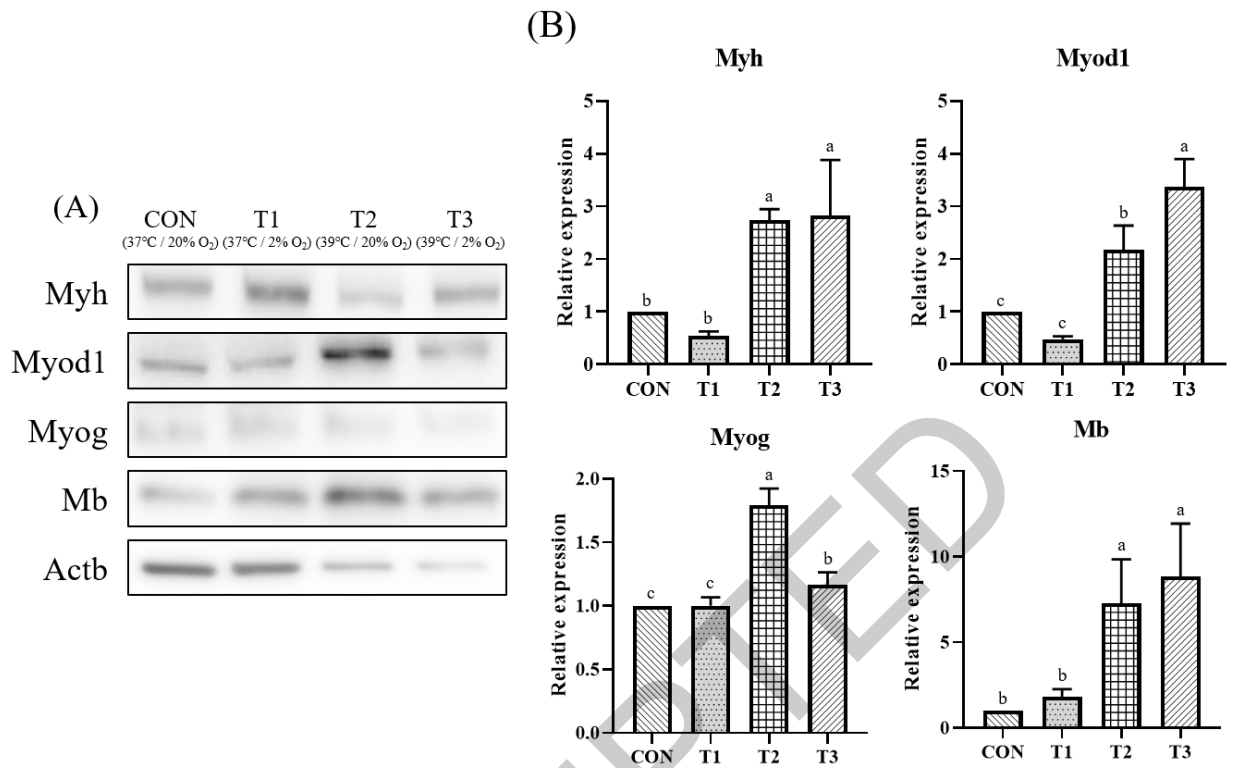
383 Figure 2. (A) Immunofluorescent staining (x100) with Myosin, Demin, and Hoechst (for staining nuclei) on day 3 of
 384 differentiation after proliferation in a 96-well plate under each condition, (B) After immunofluorescence staining,
 385 myotube area and the fusion index were measured using the Image J program ($p < 0.05$).
 386



387

388
389
390

Figure 3. (A) Photos of cells in a T25 flask on the 3rd day of differentiation under each condition, (B) Relative mRNA expression levels of *Myh2*, *Myod1*, *Myog* and *Mb* using RT-qPCR ($p < 0.05$).



391
392
393
394

Figure 4. (A) Figure of fluorescent staining after cutting the gel after Western blot gel electrophoresis, (B) Fold change graph of *Myh*, *Myod1*, *Myog* and *Mb* expression levels compared to CON after normalization against *Actb* ($p < 0.05$).