**Background** In vitro fertilization (IVF) is an important technique to propagate the experimental and commercial animals, which has been widely used to recover cryopreserved laboratory animal strains. The success of IVF is critically dependent on the media and the manner in which both oocytes and the sperms are handled. The first specific medium for human IVF, based on the chemical composition of human tubal fluid (HTF), was formulated by Quinn et al (1985). Mouse spermatozoa have been successfully fertilized in modified HTF. Further studies have found that addition of reduced glutathione to the IVF medium can enhance fertilization rate.

With a function similar to M2, HEPES-containing HTF media are designed for procedures outside CO\textsubscript{2} incubators, such as for retrieving or washing gametes and embryos.

**Storage** Product is prepared fresh and shipped on pre-chilled ice packs. Upon receiving, aliquot desired amounts and store at – 20\(^\circ\) to – 80\(^\circ\)C (thaw when needed later). Last thaw date is labeled on the container. Once thawed, aliquots should be stored at 2\(^\circ\) to 8\(^\circ\)C and used within two weeks. Thawed media stored beyond this recommended period may not perform optimally. Please note: some strains may not perform well after the medium is frozen/thawed. CytoSpring can not predict and will not hold responsible for low performance.

**Product** Please refer to the website for lists of HTF media and related reagents for IVF procedure that CytoSpring offers. All media are sterile-filtered through a 0.2 \(\mu\)m filter, containing penicillin (60mg/L) and streptomycin (50mg/L) and are ready to use.

**Note:** (1) Keep media under dark as some components in the medium are sensitive to light. (2) HTF must be equilibrated in a CO\textsubscript{2} incubator prior to embryo culture. (3) Due to filtration the final volume can be 2 to 4ml less than initially prepared.

**Reference**