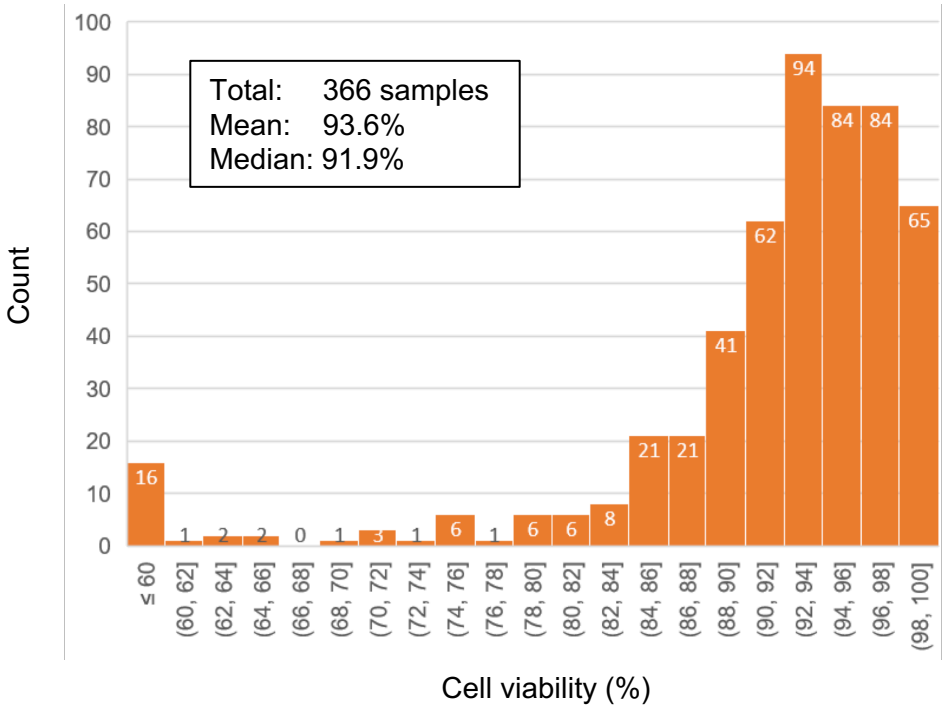
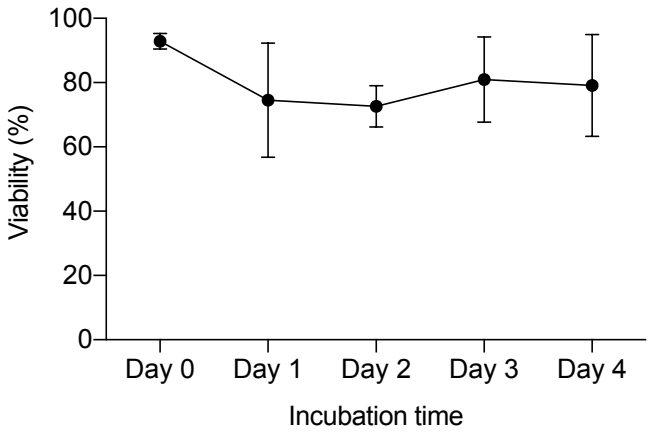
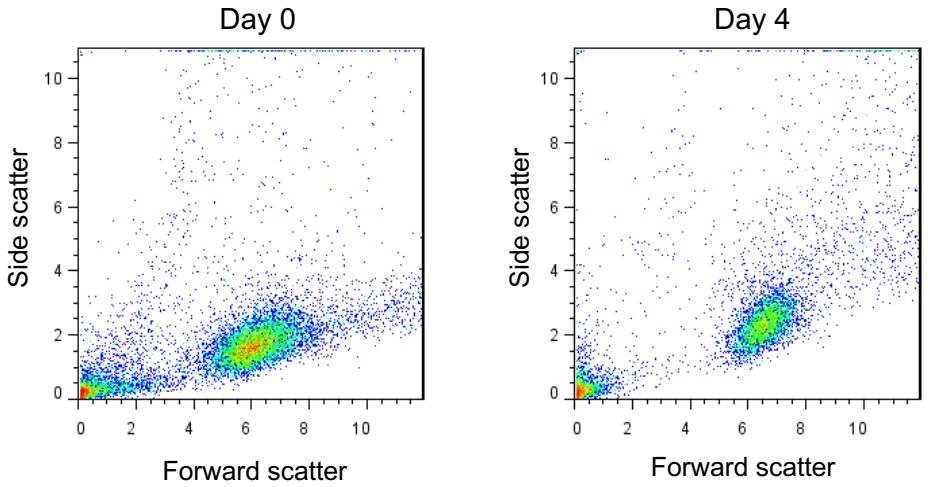


Supplementary Figure 1. Cell viability in the Transport Media 24 hours post sampling. Fine needle aspirates from patient lymph nodes were shipped overnight in the Transport Media with ice packs. Red blood cells in the FNA samples were lysed in RBC Lysis Buffer. The RBC-lysed samples were then washed twice with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Cell viability was measured by the number of live cells' ratio to the total number of cells after trypan blue staining.

(A)



(B)



Supplementary Figure 2. (A) Cell viability changes over time in the Optimum Culture Media during 4-day incubation at 37 ℃ in 5% CO_2. (B) Representative flow cytometry scatter plots at Day 0 (the date of sampling) and Day 4 of the incubation. FNA samples from patient lymph nodes were transported with ice packs on the same day of sampling. The RBC-lysed samples were washed twice with PBS and resuspended in the Optimum Culture Media. Each well in a 96-well micro-titer plate was seeded with 100,000 cells. On each day, cell viability was measured as the percentage of lymphocytes gated in the flow cytometry scatter plots. Samples from two independent patients were used and all the data points were duplicated for each patient.