



A Response to Article “Hypoxia Effects in Intervertebral Disc-Derived Stem Cells and Discus Secretomes: An in vitro Study” [Letter]

Ratih Rinendyaputri , Ariyani Noviantari , Lisa Andriani Lienggonegoro 

Center for Biomedical Research, Research Organization for Health, National Research and Innovation Agency, Cibinong, West Java, Indonesia

*These authors contributed equally to this work

Correspondence: Lisa Andriani Lienggonegoro, Center for Biomedical Research, Research Organization for Health, National Research and Innovation Agency, Genomic Building, Cibinong Science Center, Jl. Raya Bogor Km 46, Cibinong, West Java, Indonesia, Email lisa003@brin.go.id

Dear Editor

We appreciate the authors who have reported their research in “Hypoxia Effects in Intervertebral Disc-Derived Stem Cells and Discus Secretomes: An in vitro Study”, published in *Stem cells and Cloning: Advances and Applications* 2022;15:21–28. This is very important information about hypoxic preconditioning in mesenchymal stem cells/MSCs for degenerative disease therapy.¹

In this study, the authors reported that 3% oxygen (O₂) levels could increase the secretion of growth factors, especially fibroblast growth factor/FGF and platelet-derived growth factor/PDGF, meanwhile, increased secretion of transforming growth factor/TGF-β1 needed higher oxygen level (5%). These findings indicated that MSC could secrete various growth factors according to environmental conditions, including oxygen levels or hypoxic preconditioning. This means that O₂ levels can facilitate MSC to produce growth factors according to specific purposes. For example, TGF-β1 acted as an immunosuppressant to overcome inflammation and accelerate cell regeneration.² However, if the experiment goal was to increase cell proliferation which is strongly influenced by FGF and PDGF, then hypoxia 3% O₂ is recommended.

Stem cells in this study were isolated from intervertebral disc-derived stem cells/IVDS. Currently, many researchers are interested in the potential of IVDS to address the degeneration problem in the intervertebral disc. Unfortunately, this study did not report the characterization of their stem cells, therefore we could not precisely estimate the purity of stem cells in the cell population. Characterization of stem cells could provide information about the type of stem cells that produced these growth factors (FGF, PDGF, VEGF, and TGF-β1).

Other studies have reported that cytokines and growth factors secretion from MSCs originating from gingival, adipose tissue, umbilical cord or Wharton's jelly tend to increase in a hypoxic microenvironment.^{3–5} Upregulation of pro and anti-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines can certainly be used as immunomodulators.⁵ Increased neurotrophic factor would be very beneficial for nerve cell regeneration.³

More information about the sources of stem cells, and the methods of obtaining the secretome containing cytokines, chemokines, and growth factors, they would be very useful as evidence for translational research from in vitro and pre-clinical research toward clinical trial settings.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Dr. Sunarno for his suggestions and advice, we also appreciate all of the support given to the authors throughout the preparation of the article.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

References

1. Romaniyanto MF, Prakoeswa CRS, Notobroto HB, et al. Hypoxia effects in intervertebral disc-derived stem cells and discus secretomes: an in vitro study. *Stem Cells Cloning Adv Appl.* 2022;15:21–28. doi:10.2147/SCCAA.S363951
2. Bavarsad SS, Jalali MT, Nejad DB, Alypoor B, Rezaei HB, Mohammadtaghvaei N. TGFβ1-pretreated exosomes of Wharton jelly mesenchymal stem cell as a therapeutic strategy for improving liver fibrosis. *Hepat Mon.* 2022;22(1):1–12. doi:10.5812/hepatmon-123416
3. Patil S, Fageeh HN, Fageeh HI, et al. Hypoxia, a dynamic tool to amplify the gingival mesenchymal stem cells potential for neurotrophic factor secretion. *Saudi J Biol Sci.* 2022;29(5):3568–3576. doi:10.1016/j.sjbs.2022.02.039
4. Laksmiawati DR, Widowati W, Noverina R, et al. Production of inflammatory mediators in conditioned medium of adipose tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells (ATMSC)-treated fresh frozen plasma. *Med Sci Monit Basic Res.* 2022;28:e933726. doi:10.12659/msmbr.933726
5. Chouw A, Sartika CR, Milanda T, Faried A. Interleukins profiling in umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cell-derived secretome. *Stem Cells Cloning Adv Appl.* 2022;15:1–9. doi:10.2147/SCCAA.S356763

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Stem Cells and Cloning: Advances and Applications 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Stem Cells and Cloning: Advances and Applications editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Stem Cells and Cloning: Advances and Applications

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Stem Cells and Cloning: Advances and Applications is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal. Areas of interest in established and emerging concepts in stem cell research include: Embryonic cell stems; Adult stem cells; Blastocysts; Cord blood stem cells; Stem cell transformation and culture; Therapeutic cloning; Umbilical cord blood and bone marrow cells; Laboratory, animal and human therapeutic studies; Philosophical and ethical issues related to stem cell research. This journal is indexed on CAS. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/stem-cells-and-cloning-advances-and-applications-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/SCCAA.S391016>