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Impact of mesenchymal stem cells derived conditioned media on neural progenitor cells

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Abstract. Neurodegenerative diseases are common problem for companion animals. Due to the limited ability of injured axons to regenerate, innovative therapies combined with rehabilitation have been applied and evaluated. Among them, stem cells and their conditioned media implantation which can ameliorate damaged tissue has been suggested as a promising treatment strategy. The main goal of our study was to characterize mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) derived from canine adipose tissue (AT-MSC) and umbilical cord (UC-MSC) and analyse effect of their conditioned media (CM) on neurite outgrowth of neural progenitor cells isolated from the brain cortex of neonatal rats. MSC from both sources showed high osteogenic and chondrogenic potential and expression of CD90 and CD29. Furthermore, both UC-MSCCM and AT-MSCCM stimulated neurite growth. Interestingly, this effect was more pronounced with UC-MSCCM when compared to AT-MSCCM *in vitro*, which may be related to the different content of neurotrophic factors included in the CM.

Key words: Neural progenitor cells — Mesenchymal stem cells — Umbilical cord — Adipose tissue neurite growth

7 Introduction

Neural progenitor cells (NPCs) are multipotent cells that are
able to generate four major cell types of the central nevous
system (CNS): astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, microglia and
neurons. NPCs are characterized by multilineage potency
and self-renewal capacity during embryonic development
and they can be found also in neurogenic regions of the adult
CNS (Altman and Das 1965). In addition, the adult spinal

cord has been shown to contain NPCs in the white matter91parenchyma (Horner et al. 2000; Yamamoto et al. 2001)92and in the region around the central canal (Kulbatski and93Tator 2009), either in the ependyma (Meletis et al. 2008) or94subependymally (Martens et al. 2002).95

Mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) are a subset of stromal cells that maintain the same fibroblast-like morphology and specific cluster of differentiation (CD) marker expression; however they also have the potential for self-renewal and ability to differentiate into adipocytes, chondrocytes, and osteoblasts in vitro (Horwitz et al. 2005). Cultured cells can be classified as MSC if they show: (1) adherence to plastic under culture conditions, (2) expression of CD105, CD73, and CD90, (3) lack of expression of CD45, CD34, CD14/

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CD11b, CD79/CD19, and HLA-DR surface markers, and (4) multilineage potential (Dominici et al. 2006). Compelling evidence exists that non-haematopoietic stem cells, including MSC, exert a substantial beneficial and therapeutic effect after transplantation in experimental CNS disease models through the secretion of immune-modulatory or neurotrophic paracrine factors (Hofer and Tuan 2016).

8 The stem cell-derived secreted factors including cytokines, 9 chemokines and growth factors have gained increasing at-10 tention in recent years because of their multiple implications 11 for the repair, restoration or regeneration of injured tissues 12 (Kang et al. 2014). The secreted factors can be found in the 13 medium in which the stem cells are cultured; refered as 14 conditioned medium (CM).

15 The use of CM has several advantages compared to the use of stem cells, since CM can be manufactured, freeze-dried, 16 packaged, and transported more easily. Moreover, as it is 17 devoid of cells there is no need to match the donor and the re-18 19 cipient to avoid rejection (Pawitan 2014). CM released by cells 20 contain a range of membrane-enclosed extracellular vesicles 21 (EV). Among them, exosomes and microvesicles carry pro-22 teins, signaling lipids, and nucleic acids (mRNA, miRNA) from 23 donor cells to recipient cells, and thus have been proposed to 24 serve as intercellular mediators of communication (Deng et al. 25 2018). Especially exosomes, membrane-enclosed nanovesicles of 30 to 150 nm that shuttle active cargoes between different 26 27 cells have received a lot of attention. Exosomes, contrary to 28 microvesicles, are formed within multivesicular bodies (MVB) 29 at the endolysosomal pathway and are secreted upon fusion of 30 MVB with the plasma membrane (Kalani et al. 2014).

31 The aim of our study was to isolate and chacterize MSC derived from umbilical cord (UC-MSC) and adipose tissue 32 33 (AT-MSC), from a morphological point of view, multine-34 age potential and expression of CD markers (CD29, CD90, 35 CD45) according to the criteria of International society for 36 stem cells research (ISSCR) for MSC. Subsequently, we pre-37 pared conditioned medium from both populations of MSC 38 and compared their impact on neurite outgrowth of NPCs. 39

41 Material and Methods

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43 Animals

The study was performed with approval and in accordance to the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and with the European Communities Council Directive (2010/63/EU) regarding the use of animals in research, Slovak Law for Animal Protection No. 377/2012 and 436/2012 and protocol approval Ro-4081/17-221.

52 Subcutaneous fat was obtained under local anesthesia53 (Lidocain 2% a.u.v, Biopharm, Czech Republic) from dorsal

scapular region of thoroughbred dogs (n = 3); German Shep-54herd (3 years old, 36 kg) Royal Poodle (3 years old, 29 kg)55and Slovak Čuvač (4 years old, 45 kg).56

Umbilical cord was obtained via caesarean section (CS)57under general anesthesia (Sevohale 100% v/v, Chanele Phar-
maceuticals Manufacturing, Ireland), (n = 2) from newborns59of German Rotweiler (weight of a newborn was approximately
455 g, number of pupies following CS was 2) and German Do-
berman (weight of a newborn was approximately 370 g, n = 6).62

All these procedures were practised after clinical examination and obtaining the informed consent from their owners.

Isolation, cultivation of MSC and preparation of conditioned media

AT-MSC, UC-MSC isolation procedure

The adipose tissue (5-7 g) and umbilical cord (4-6 g), (n = 3)71 were washed extensively with phosphate buffer saline (PBS) 72 73 with 2% antibiotic-antimycotic solution containing penicillin, streptomycin, and amphotericin B (Biowest, USA). 74 Mechanically dissected tissue was then enzymatically dis-75 sociated with 0.05% Collagenase type I (Gibco, USA) under 76 gentle agitation for 30-45 min at 37°C. After incubation, 77 digested tissue was filtered (suspension was passed through 78 a 100-µm cell strainer) to remove the rest of tissue frag-80 ments. Obtained fractions of MSC from both sources were 81 centrifuged $400 \times g/10$ min. The pellets of stromal vascular 82 fraction (SVF) and pellets which contained isolated MSC 83 from umbilical cord were resuspended in alpha MEM me-84 dium (Biowest, USA) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine 85 serum (FBS) (Biowest, USA) and 1% antibiotics (penicillin/ 86 streptomycin, Biowest, USA), and plated on 25 cm² tis-87 sue culture flask. Non-adherent cells were removed after 88 2-3 days; culture media was changed twice a week. 89

Flow cytometry with canine CD markers

Canine AT-MSC and UC-MSC from passage 3 were sampled 93 to investigate presence of the CD29 and CD90-positive and 94 CD45-negative cells. Each suspension of cells $(1 \times 10^6/\text{ml})$ 95 was incubated with fluorochrome-conjugated monoclonal 96 antibodies: anti-CD45/FITC, anti-CD29/R-phycoerythrin, 97 anti-CD90/allophycocyanin, diluted in PBS (MP Biomedi-98 cals, France) for 45 min at room temperature and in the dark. 99 After incubation, the cells were washed twice with 1 ml PBS 100 (MP Biomedicals, France), followed by 5-min centrifugation 101 at 250 \times g. Finally, 100 µl PBS were added and cytometric 102 analysis was performed on a BD FACSCanto[™] flow cytometer 103 (Becton Dickinson Biosciences, USA) equipped with a blue 104 (488 nm) and a red (633 nm) laser and six fluorescence de-105 tectors. The percentage of cells expressing the individual CD 106 characters was determined by means of dot plotting for the 107

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1 respective fluorescence. The data obtained were analyzed in 2 the BD FACS DivaTM analysis software. For flow cytometry, 3 the following antibodies were employed according to the sup-4 plier's recommendations: phycoerythrin anti-human CD29/ 5 IgG1 (Clone: TS2/16, human, canine, Sony Biotechnology); 6 FITC anti-dog CD45/IgG2b (Clone: YKIX716.13, BIO-7 PORT, CZ); allophycocyanin anti-dog CD90/IgG2b (Clone: 8 YKIX337.217, BIOPORT, CZ); and their isotype controls: 9 FITC dog IgG (CD29) and phycoerythrin, allophycocyanin 10 dog IgG2b (CD45, CD90) from Biolegend.

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Three-lineage profile of AT-MSC and UC-MSC (osteogenic, chondrogenic and adipogenic phenotypes

The multilineage potential of canine AT-MSC and UC-MSC 15 (passages 3) was determined by incubation with commercial 16 17 StemPro Differentiation Kits containing all the reagents required for inducing canine AT-MSC and UC-MSC into 18 19 chondrogenic, osteogenic, and adipogenic lineages. Cultures 20 were stimulated with the appropriate differentiation medium 21 for 21 days according to the recomended differentiation pro-22 tocol for each specific lineage. Afterward, the cultures were 23 fixed with 4% formaldehyde and stained with the following 24 reagents: adipogenic culture with Oil Red, osteogenic culture with Alizarin Red S, and chondrogenic culture with Alcian 25 26 Blue (all from Sigma-Aldrich, USA).

28 Conditioned media preparation AT-derived and UC-derived 29 conditioned media

31 AT-MSCCM and UC-MSCCM at passage 3 were cultured 32 in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM, Biowest, 33 USA) without FBS (Biowest, USA) and antibiotics. After 34 24-h incubation in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2 at 35 37°C, collected media samples were centrifuged at $400 \times g$ for 36 10 min to remove cell debris, and filtered through a 0.2 µm 37 sterile syringe filter (Millipore, USA). We have used identi-38 cal procedure as published recently (Humenik et al. 2019). 39 After obtaining conditioned media from both sources, the 40 protein concentration of the CM was quantified by Bradford 41 protein assay, using standard Bradford reagent (Sigma), to ensure that equal concentrations (1.0 mg/ml) of CM were 42 43 used. DMEM was regarded as a control (nonconditioned 44 medium). Samples of AT-MSCCM and UC-MSCCM were collected and stored at -80°C untill the time of use. 45

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47 Primary culture of brain cortex NPCs48

49 NPCs were isolated from the brain cortex of three days old 50 neonatal Wistar rats (n = 3). Animals were anesthetised on 51 ice and afterwards sacrificed by decapitation. The entire brain 52 cortex was removed, meninges were dissected away and brain 53 cortex tissue was minced with sterile microsurgical scissors into small pieces and mechanically dissociated. Cell suspen-54 sion was centrifuged 8 min at $400 \times g$. Cells were plated in 6 55 well plates $(3 \times 10^5 \text{ cells } per \text{ well})$ and in 24 well plates $(15 \times 10^3 \text{ cells } per \text{ well})$ 56 cells per well) grown in complete proliferative culture media 57 (CPCM) composed of DMEM and Ham's F12 (DMEM-F12, 58 Biosera, Philipines) supplemented with 5 mg/ml streptomy-59 cin, 5 IU/ml penicillin (Biochrom, UK), B27 (10 ng/ml), 60 N2 (10 ng/ml) (Gibco, USA), bFGF (basic fibroblast growth 61 factor) (20 ng/ml) (Milipore, USA), EGF (epidermal growth 62 factor) (20 ng/ml) (AppliChem, Germany), 3% FBS, at 37°C 63 in 5% CO₂ incubator for 4 days in vitro (DIV4). 64

Immunohistochemistry characterization of NPCs culture

DIV4 cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 68 min and incubated with Anti-neurofilament 200 antibody 69 (NF200, rabbit polyclonal IgG, Merck, USA) and Anti-70 glial fibrilary acidic protein (GFAP, rabbit polyclonal; Dako, 71 USA). Appropriate secondary antibodies FITC (green goat 72 73 anti-rabbit, Molecular probes, USA) were used. The cells were counterstained with 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole 74 (DAPI, Sigma, USA) to reveal nuclei. The staining was 75 detected by fluorescent microscopy (Zeiss, Germany) and 76 pictures were taken by microscope camera (Zeiss Axiocam 77 ERc 5s, Zeiss, Germany). 78

Quantification of neurite outgrowth

After 4 days, when primary culture of NPCs revealed typical83neurosphere-like structures and reached 60–70% sub-con-84fluence, cells were treated with 0.25% trypsin, and replated85in 24-well plates $(15 \times 10^3 \text{ cells per well})$ for neurite growth.86

NPCs were cultivated in DMEM with 5% FBS and 1% 87 ATB for 2 days in order to adhere to plastic. Afterwards 88 the medium was replaced to: i) AT-MSCCM (n = 3), ii) 89 UC-MSCCM (n = 3), iii) negative CTR (control) medium 90 (DMEM no supplements, n = 3) and iv) positive CTR 91 (DMEM supplemented with B27 (10 ng/ml), n = 3), N2 92 (10 ng/ml), recombinant human bFGF (20 ng/ml) and 93 human EGF (20 ng/ml)) and cultured for three days. The 94 number of processes were quantified in each condition at 95 day 1, day 2 and day 3 of culture in positive control, nega-96 tive control, AT-MSCCM and UC-MSCCM using the Zeiss 97 software (Carl Zeiss AxioVision software). The number of 98 processes was counted in 10 different fields/per each group 99 and then averaged using Fiji ImageJ software similar as 100 Pemberton (Pemberton et al. 2018). 101

Statistical analysis

All the data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation. 105 Comparisons among multiple groups (negative control, 106 UCMSC-CM and ATMSC-CM) were performed by One- 107

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way ANOVA for each day using GraphPad Prism 5.0 (Graph-Pad Software, Inc, San Diego, CA). Significance was set as follows: * *p* < 0.05, *p* < 0.01 and ** *p* < 0.001.

Results

Morphologic characteristics

Using above mentioned protocols, we were able to isolate MSC from adipose tissue and umbilical cord. Morphological comparison of UC-MSC and AT-MSC showed some typical features

for each population, while UC-MSC showed fibroblastoid shape (Fig. 1A), the AT-MSC revealed fibroblastoid shape (Fig. 1B).

Flow cytometry profile

Flow cytometry analyses of AT-MSC and UC-MSC from third passage showed that both cell populations expressed CD markers typical for MSC. AT-MSC expressed primarily CD29 (99.4%) and CD90 (78.6%) but low CD45 (1.3%), while UC-MSC from identical passage showed higher expression of CD45 (11.6%), CD29 (98.4%) and reduced CD90 (46.2%) in comparison with AT-MSC (Fig. 2).



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Figure 2. Representative	98
flow cytometry analyses	99
with canine CD markers	100
of AT-MSC CD45 (1.3%),	101
CD29 (99.4%) and CD90	102
(78.6%) (upper panel) and	103
UC-MSC CD45 (11.6%),	104
CD29 (98.4%) and CD90	101
(46.2%) (lower panel) from	105
passage 3 presented as scat-	106
ter blot.	107



Figure 3. Multilineage differentiation of AT-MSC (upper panel) and UC-MSC (lower panel). Figures represent multilineage potencial of canine MSC isolated from adipose tissue and umbilical cord, differentiated into osteocytes (Alizarin Red), chondrocytes (Alcian Blue) and adipocytes (Oil Red O). Scale bar 50 µm.

Multilineage potencial

Three-lineage potential was detected by using commercial StemPro[®] Differentiation Kits. Present data confirmed that canine AT-MSC and UC-MSC after 21 days of incubation in specific differentiation medium underwent a high degree of biomineralizing osteogenesis. This was confirmed by Alizarin Red S which is an anthraquinone dye used to stain calcium deposites. Similarly, we captured a significant chondrogenic potential. In addition, chondrocytes migrating from spherical chondrocyte-like aggregates

revealed intense Alcian Blue staining, which is typical for chondrogenesis. On the contrary, we found a low degree of adipogenesis, with limited vacuole formation and Oil Red staining (Fig. 3).

Immunohistochemistry characterization of NPCs culture

For NPCs characterization we used NF200 and GFAP antibody. NF200 is widely accepted as marker for large myelinated A- β fibers of neurons, while GFAP is expressed by astrocytes and ependymal cells. Population of NPCs was



Figure 4. The expression of neural (NF200) and glial (GFAP) markers. The cells were counterstained with 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylin-dole (DAPI) detected by fluorescent microscopy. Scale bar 100 µm.

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positive for both markers (Fig. 4). Furthermore, we observed formation of neurosphere-like structures of various diameter, which disintegrate spontaneously and formed connected networks of neural cells populations after further in vitro culture conditions.

Neurite outgrowth

Bradford measurment as quantitative method for analayes 10 of conditioned media from both sources showed only 11 mild differences between concentrations of proteins in 12 UC-MSCCM and AT-MSCCM (1.40 mg/ml and 1.17 mg/ 13 ml proteins, respectively). Thus, both CM were diluted to 14 final concentration of 1.0 mg/ml for neurite outgrowth 15 experiment.

16 In vitro study confirmed neurotrophic-like stimulatory properties of UC-MSCCM and AT-MSCCM with promoted 17 neurite outgrowth. Positive control medium, containing 18 19 high concentration of neurotrophic factors, showed the 20 most significant effect (Fig. 5) on the number of neurite 21 processes from day 1 to day 3 (91.98% increase of number 22 of processes compared to the negative control over 3 days 23 of cultivation) (Fig. 6). However, the concentration of the 24 neurotrophic factors in CM of positive control (Positive 25 CTR) was significantly above the physiological range there-26 fore, we did not compare these data with both experimental 27 groups (UC-MSCCM and AT-MSCCM). Furthermore, 28 UC-MSCCM showed a significant increase of number of 29 processes compared to the negative control at day 2 (p <30 0.01) and day 3 (p < 0.01) but not at day 1, although data 31 were close from reaching significant results (p = 0.0709).

Similarly, AT-MSCCM showed a significant enhancement of processes outgrowth compared to the negative control at day 1 (p < 0.05) but not the following days (day 2: p = 0.5689; day 3: p = 0.69).

Figure 5. Analysis of neurite growth. The average number of pro-50 cesses was measured using Zeiss's software. An arrow (in red) was placed on each of the neurite in each field, excluding those that are not completely in the field. Scale bar 50 µm. (For color figure see online version of the manuscript).

Discussion

Several adult tissues have been identified as potential sources 56 of MSC including bone marrow, adipose tissue, placenta, 57 umbilical cord, umbilical cord blood, amnion, dental pulp, 58 liver parenchyma and many others (Berebichez-Fridman and 59 Montero-Olvera 2018; Humenik et al. 2019; Kholodenko et al. 60 2019). In order to isolate MSC from adipose tissue and umbili-61 cal cord, we used a combined method of mechanical disruption 62 and enzymatic digestion with the enzyme collagenase I or IV 63 (Buyl et al. 2015; Mastrolia et al. 2019). The enzymatic process 64 lasted 25-45 min, depending on the amount and structure of 65 the digested fraction. However, prolonged digestion could 66 damage cells, because of cells sensibility to proteolytic enzymes 67 (Mushahary et al. 2018; Mastrolia et al. 2019). 68

Isolated MSC revealed differences in several parameters, 69 similarly as reported in previous experiments (Berebichez-70 Fridman and Montero-Olvera 2018). MSC derived from 71 adipose tissue showed a spindle shape and 100-140 µm in 72 73 perimeter. On the other hand, MSC isolated from umbilical cord showed fibroblastoid shape and cells were significantly 74 smaller, ranging around 80 µm. 75

Interesting data were obtained while monitoring the multi-76 differentiation capacity of isolated cell populations. Cells from 77 each population were tested for their capacity to differentiate 78 into an osteogenic, chondrogenic and adipogenic line. MSC 80 isolated from both sources, adipose tissue and umbilical cord, 81 showed a very good ability to differentiate into an osteogenic 82 and chondrogenic line, but very little or no ability to dif-83 ferentiate towards adipogenic cells, even after repeating the 84 experiment several times. This inability of MSC adipogenesis 85 has been described also in other studies (Kern et al. 2006; 86 Kozlowska et al. 2019). A key role in this phenomenon may 87 play up regulation of bioactive molecules such as: Runx2, 88 Wnt10b, RhoA, which are capable of mediating ostegenesis 89 but suppressing adipogenesis (Zhang et al. 2012). 90

Flow cytometry of CD surface markers expression out-91 lined few variations as well. AT-MSC from the third passage 92 showed low expression of CD45+ cells and high expression 93 of the CD 29+ and CD90+ cells. On the contrary, UC-MSC 94 from the same passage showed higher expression of CD45+ 95 and less expression of CD90+ cells while slight difference was 96 detected for CD29+. From flow cytometry results, we can 97 conclude that each cell population is unique and homogene-98 ity can be achieved by passagaging or modifying isolation 99 technique. It should be noted that the actual expression of 100 positive and negative markers also depends on the source 101 from which the MSC were isolated (Maleki et al. 2014) as well 102 as on the age of donors (Lin et al. 2013) and the cellular aging 103 (replicative capabilities) (Yang et al. 2018). In addition, slight 104 differences may occure even between individual samples. 105

It is well documented that MSC are stimulating the envi-106 ronment and other cells through the paracrine activity via 107





Figure 6. Neurotrophic potential of Positive CTR and Negative CTR on neurite outgrowth. Brightfield images illustrating the increased number of processes in Positive CTR (DMEM supplemented with B27, N2, recombinant human bFGF and human EGF) and Negative CTR (DMEM, no supplement). Neurotrophic potential of Negative CTR on neurite outgrowth. Brightfield images illustrating the number of processes in Negative CTR (DMEM, no supplements) condition. Scale bar 50 µm. Neurotrophic potential of umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells conditioned medium (UC-MSCCM, grey) and adipose tissue mesenchymal stem cells

medium (AT-MSCCM, blue) compared to Positive CTR (black) and Negative CTR (white) on neurite outgrowth of NPCs of rat cortex primary culture during 3 days of cultivation evaluated by number of new cell processes. Data represent mean value ± SEM. Unpaired t-test between the UC-MSCCM or AT-MSCCM and negative control conditions within the same day * p < 0.05 and ** p < 0.01.

production of growth factors, mediators and other bioactive molecules, included in a conditioned medium (Humenik et al. 2019; Rezaie et al. 2019; Maacha et al. 2020). Previ-ous study focused on proteomic analyses of MSCCM from adipose tissue and umbilical cord showed, that there are differences in composition of secretomes from these sources (Shin et al. 2021). However, according to previous studies, the gender or strain differences have no major effect on composi-tion of CM (Barzilay et al. 2009; Teshima et al. 2019). Here, we have compared neurotrophic stimulation of two CM derived from MSC of different origin. Our findings showed that both UC-MSCCM and AT-MSCCM enhanced neurite growth. Interestingly, this effect was more pronounced with UC-MSCCM than AT-MSCCM. The accelerated neurite outgrowth can be explained by the paracrine potential of MSC mediated through increased production of HGF (hepatocyte growth factor), VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor), IGF (insuline growth factor), EGF, GDNF (glial cell-line derived neurotrophic factor), BDNF (brain-derived neurotrophic factor), NT3 (neurtrophin-3), TGF (transforming growth factor), angiopoietin, and adhesion molecules (Pawitan 2014; Dabrowski et al. 2017; Dong et al. 2018; Mukai et al. 2018; Cofano et al. 2019; Xiang et al. 2020). These data are in line with present findings revealing

neurite outgrowth, which was most likely promoted by UC-MSC-secreted BDNF and glial cell line-derived neuro-

trophic factor (GDNF) (Qi et al. 2018). Furthermore, in vitro co-cultures showed that UC-MSC promote neuronal/glial survival and neuritogenesis also through the secretion of BDNF and β -NGF (Pawitan et al. 2017). Characterization of UC-MSCCM by antibody-based protein array analyses and by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) showed enrichment of IGF-1, HGF, VEGF and TGF-B (Arutyunyan et al. 2016, Ahangar et al. 2020). In addition, neuroprotective efficacy of UCMSC and its products was confirmed also in vivo by treating cerebral palsy (Wang et al. 2015; Okur et al. 2018) or SCI (Cheng et al. 2014).

In summary, present study provides evidence that UC-MSCCM has a greater effect on neurite outgrowth compared to AT-MSCCM, suggesting that UC-MSC are probably secreting more neuro-trophic factors (Cofano et al. 2019). Indeed, the number of processes counted are not the only indicator of neurite growth, but also length or ramification are key parameters for neuritogenesis that need to be taken in account in the future studies.

Conclusion

In this study, we showed that CM derived from MSC of different tissue origin have a beneficial effect on neurite outgrowth. Interestingly, we found that UC-MSCCM had

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a more stimulatory effect on neurite outgrowth when compared to AT-MSCCM, which may be associated with the capacity of releasing a higher content of neurotrophic factors. These data correlate with previous study of UC-MSCCM revealing higher secretion of neurothrophc factors (bFGF, NGF, NT3, NT4, GDNF), lower immunogenicity in the host tissue, higher anti-inflamatory effect in injured nervous tissue than by AT-MSCCM (Cofano et al. 2019).

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Authors contribution. DC, FH and SJ conceived of the presented idea. FH, SJ, MM, MC, and NH planned the experiments. MZ, LH, AV were crucial for obtaining tissues for MSC isolation. FH, ZV and SJ aided with cell isolation, cultivation and passaging. FH, DM performed the MSC and CM characterization. MZ, SJ, MM and FH carried out the experiments on NPC. DC, FH, SJ contributed to the interpretation of the results. All authors wrote and revised the manuscript. DC finantially supported the experiments.

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