

THE EFFECTS OF MAGNETIC FIELDS (MFs) ON *IN VITRO* CULTURE OF hUMAN
UMBILICAL CORD DERIVED MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS (hUC-MSCs)

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This thesis is dedicated to Almighty “Allah ” who gave me strength, knowledge, patience and wisdom). My “ Parents ” (For their unconditional love, devotion, cares and prays helps me to achieve this target). My “ Brother & Nor Hafizah ” (Their love, care, commitment and sincerity motivate me to finish this valuable work).



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ABSTRACT

The potential hazardous effects of magnetic field (MF) exposures on individual have been extensively studied. However, a number of studies have surprisingly observed that response to optimal MF has significantly increased the proliferation rate of stem cells. Accordingly, this current study aims to investigate the potential impact of induced Static Magnetic Field (SMF) on human Umbilical Cord-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells (hUC-MSCs) using Samarium Cobalt (SmCo_5). SmCo_5 was selected for the study due to its known strong permanent moment magnetization, and stable against the influence of demagnetization. The 10,000 of hUC-MSCs at passage 3, seeding in 60 mm petri dish were grown in constant 'direct exposure' (DE) of 21.6 mT SMF, alongside with 'indirect exposure' (IE) and 'negative control' (NC) groups. The growth kinetic experiments in the current study exhibited exponential growth at day four in the DE group, compared to day six for both IE and NC groups. Population doubling time (PDT) was also performed and the results showed DE group contributed significantly to the change in PDT for a period of passage 3 with $p < 0.05$. Cell cycle analysis after 18 hours revealed that DE group entered to the cell cycle at higher percentage where hUC-MSCs exposed with MF was committed into 55.18 % cells in S phase and 21.75 % cells at G2/M phase compared to IE. (^3H)-TdR revealed that DE group gave the highest proliferation capability at all points of seeding density, when compared to IE and NC groups. In addition, flow cytometer analysis discovered no significant difference in the expression of the surface markers of DE group compared to IE and NC. SMF also was observed to have the potential to induce higher expression of pluripotency-associated markers (*OCT4*, *SOX2*, *NANOG*, and *REX1*) in DE group than in the IE and NC groups as analyzed via RT-PCR. In conclusion, through MF exposure, small quantity of collected MSCs could be expanded rapidly in a short period of time. This finding may suggest MF as a new modality to expand MSC for various therapeutic applications.

ABSTRAK

Kesan MF yang berpotensi membawa kemudharatan kepada manusia telah dikaji secara meluas. Walau bagaimanapun, tindakbalas MF secara optimum telah meningkatkan kadar percambahan sel induk dengan begitu ketara. Oleh itu kajian yang sedang dijalankan adalah bertujuan untuk mengkaji kesan potensi (SmCo_5) kepada hUC-MSCs yang berasal daripada tali pusat manusia. SmCo_5 telah digunakan dalam kajian ini kerana ia mempunyai momen magnetisasi yang berlaku secara berterusan, kukuh dan stabil terhadap pengaruh demagnetisasi. Di dalam kajian ini, 10,000 hUC-MSCs daripada kumpulan 3 telah dikulturkan di dalam 60 mm petri dish dan didedahkan kepada (MF) DE 21.6 mT bersama-sama dengan kumpulan IE dan NC. Eksperimen kinetik pertumbuhan telah menunjukkan pertumbuhan eksponen berlaku pada hari keempat di dalam kumpulan DE, berbanding hari keenam untuk kedua-dua kumpulan IE dan NC. PDT juga dilakukan dan keputusan menunjukkan perubahan yang ketara berlaku pada kumpulan 3 dengan $p < 0.05$. Analisis kitaran sel pada 18 jam, hUC-MSCs yang terdedah kepada MF memasuki kitaran sel jauh lebih tinggi berbanding pada kondisi normal dimana hUC-MSCs diawah MF berkomitmen pada 55.18 % sel di fasa S dan 21.75 % sel pada G2 / M. [^3H]-TdR) mendedahkan bahawa kumpulan DE memberi keupayaan pertumbuhan yang tinggi di semua titik pertumbuhan, berbanding dengan kumpulan IE dan NC. Di samping itu, analisis flow sitometer menunjukkan tidak terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam penanda permukaan hUC-MSCs kepada kumpulan DE berbanding dengan IE dan NC. SMF juga dilihat berpotensi untuk mendorong ekspresi yang lebih tinggi transkripsi penanda pluripotent (*OCT4*, *SOX2*, *NANOG*, dan *REX1*) dalam kumpulan DE berbanding kumpulan IE dan NC seperti dianalisis melalui RT-PCR. Melalui pendedahan MF, jumlah kecil MSC yang dikumpul dapat dipertingkatkan dengan cepat dalam jangka waktu yang singkat. Penemuan ini mungkin mencadangkan MF sebagai modaliti baru untuk pengembangan MSC untuk pelbagai aplikasi terapeutik.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

±	-	Plus minus
μT	-	Microtesla
³ H- Tdr	-	Tritium thymidine
8-OhdG	-	8-Oxo-2'-deoxyguanosine
hAT-MSCs	-	human Adipose Tissue Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells
A/m	-	Amperes per meter
AC	-	Alternate current
AP-1	-	Activator protein 1
APC	-	Antigen presenting cells
APC	-	Allophyceoeerythrin
APK	-	Activated protein kinase
ATSCs	-	Adipose Tissue Stromal Cells
B	-	Magnetic field (Vector)
B7-1	-	CD80
B7-2	-	CD86
B cell	-	B lymphocyte
Bcl-2	-	B-cell lymphoma 2
BM	-	Bone marrow
BMMSCs	-	Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells
BMP4	-	Bone morphogenetic protein 4
bp	-	Base pair
°C	-	Degree celsius
Ca ²⁺	-	Calcium ion
CaM	-	Calmodulin
cAMP	-	cyclic Adenosine Monophosphate
CD	-	Cluster of differentiation

Cdks	-	Cyclin-dependent kinases
cDNA	-	Complementary DNA
CFU-F	-	Colony-forming unit fibroblastic
CO ₂	-	Carbon dioxide
CPM	-	Count per minute
DC	-	Dendritic cells
DC	-	Direct current
DMEM	-	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium
DMSO	-	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	-	Deoxyribonucleic acid
E	-	Electric field
E2F	-	Transcription factor E2F
ECM	-	Extracellular matrix
ELF	-	Extremely low frequency
EMFs	-	Electromagnetic fields
ELF-EMF	-	Extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields
ER	-	Endoplasmic reticulum
ERK	-	Extracellular-regulated kinase
ESCs	-	Embryonic stem cells
F	-	Force
FACS	-	Fluorescent- activated sorting
FGF	-	Fibroblast growth factor
FITC	-	Fliorescein isothiocynate
G	-	Gauss
G ₀	-	Quiescence phase
G1	-	Gap phase
G2	-	Second gap
GABA _c	-	Gamma amino butyric acid rho
GADPH	-	Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase
G-CSF	-	Granulocyte colony stimulating factor
GHz	-	Gegahertz
Gy	-	Gray
H	-	<i>magnetic field</i> density

Hz	-	Hertz
hBMSCs	-	human Bone Marrow Stem Cells
HBS	-	Human Bovine Serum
hUCMSCs	-	human Umbilical Cord Mesenchymal Stem Cells
HSC	-	Haematopoietic Stem Cells
hTERT	-	human Telomerase Reverse Transcription
IAIRC	-	International Agency for Research Cancer
ICAM-1	-	Intracellular Adhesion Molecule 1
ICM	-	Inner cell mass
ICNIRP	-	International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection
IF	-	Intermediate frequency
IF-EMF	-	Intermediate frequency electromagnetic field
IMP	-	Intramembrane proteins
iPSc	-	Induced pluripotent stem cells
kHz	-	Kilohertz
KV/m	-	Kilovolt meter
LF-EMF	-	Low frequency electromagnetic field
MAP	-	Mitogen activated protein
MAPK	-	Mitogen activated protein kinase
MFs	-	Magnetic fields
mG	-	Miligauss
mT	-	Militesla
MHz	-	Megahertz
MHC	-	Major histocompatible complex
MR	-	Magnetic resonance
MSCs	-	Mesenchymal stem cells
mW	-	Milliwatt
MW-EMF	-	Microwave electromagnetic field
OCT4	-	Octamer binding transcription factor-4
%	-	Percentage
PBS	-	Phosphate buffer saline
PCR	-	Polymerase chain reaction

PDT	-	Population doubling time
PE	-	Phycocerythrin
PI	-	Propodium iodide
pRB	-	Retinoblastoma protein
q	-	Charged of particle
REAC TO-	-	Radio Electric Asymmetric Conveyer Tissue
RGN		Optimization Regenerative
RF	-	Radio frequency
RT-PCR	-	Reverse transcriptase polymerase reaction
S	-	Synthesis phase
SAR	-	Specific absorption rate
SAPK	-	Stretch- activated protein kinase
SCs	-	Stem cells
SCENIHR	-	Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks
SF	-	Static field
SMF	-	Static magnetic field
SmCo ₅	-	Samarium Cobalt Magnet
SH-SY5Y	-	Neuroblastoma cell line
T	-	Tesla
TGF- β	-	Transforming growth factor beta
TERT	-	Telomerase reverse transcriptase
N	-	Particle velocity (expressed of the vector)
VCAM-1	-	Vascular cell adhesion molecule -1
W/Kg	-	Watts per kilogram
WLAN	-	Wireless local area network

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Haslinda Abdul Hamid, Mohd Kamarulzaki Mustafa, Azizi Miskon, Rajesh Ramasamy, Shalini Vellasamy (2013). “ A Preliminary Study On The Effects Of Static Magnetic Field On Umbilical Cord Mesenchymal Stem Cells Proliferation. ” Seminar Kebangsaan Aplikasi Sains dan Matematik 2013 (SKASM 2013) UTHM.

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Haslinda Abdul Hamid, Mohd Kamarulzaki Mustafa, Rajesh Ramasamy, & Azizi Miskon.“ Fundamental Studies on the Effects of Magnetic Field on human Umbilical Mesenchymal Stem Cells Proliferation.” Research & Innovation Festival 3-4 November, 2014, UTHM.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Magnetic field (MF) is a physical quantity that is nearly as old as the earth. The Earth's MF also known as geomagnetic field plays an important role in sustaining life on earth since it shields the earth from the solar wind that could destroy the ozone layer, which absorbs most of the harmful ultraviolet radiation. Humans and other living things are naturally exposed to Earth's MF, which is not harmful. Apart from Earth's MF, there are other sources of MF such as magnetized materials known as permanent magnets.

MFs are of two types namely, the endogenous and exogenous fields. Endogenous fields are those MFs that are produced within the body. This type of MF occurs at various electrically excitable organs such as heart (electrocardiogram), brain (electroencephalogram) and eye (electrooculogram). It is also formed from the actions of the musculoskeletal system (Hastings & Mahmud, 1988; Levin, 2003). On the other hand, exogenous fields are MFs produced by sources outside the body and can be classified as natural exogenous fields such as the Earth's geomagnetic field (e.g., Samarium Cobalt (SmCo_5) or Neodymium Ferum Boron (NdFeB)) or artificial exogenous (man-made MF) fields like power lines, transformers, appliances, radio transmitters, and medical devices. Artificial exogenous fields MFs can be generated and manipulated to mimic the day-to-day exposure levels obtained at work places, public places and homes as shown in Table 1.1.

Other than MFs, electrical field (EF) is also associated with biological effects that can modulate neural growth and orientation *in vitro*, and has been successful modulate neural growth and orientation *in vitro*, and has been successfully applied in

therapeutic alternatives for spinal cord injuries (Patel & Poo, 1984; Duffell *et al.*, 2008). Cells response towards EF was initially described as passive, and had been determined through physical properties of cells, however, it has been reported that cells can also actively respond towards EF stimulations (Markx, 2008).

Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) on the other hands are produced when electrical current flows through an electrical conductor; such as in power lines (Goodman *et al.*, 1993). Like MF and EF, EMF can also significantly exhibit biological effects towards cells, such as altered growth rate, RNA quantities, proteins, cell surface characteristics, and in overall development (Liboff *et al.*, 1984; Takahashi *et al.*, 1986; Marron *et al.*, 1988; Delgado *et al.*, 1982). However EMF-based technologies have not progressed to clinical translation and the reason for this is the scepticism due to differences in experimental exposure protocols.

Frequent human exposure to MFs has raised serious health concerns as MF has been associated with some medical complications. Several types of cancer (Ahlbom *et al.*, 2000), tumours (Feychting *et al.*, 1997), Glioblastoma (Kheifets *et al.*, 1995), (Repacholi & Greenebaum, 1999) and leukemia (Greenland *et al.*, 2000) have been associated with MF exposure. Although many hypotheses were put forward to explain serious health effects of MF, no scientific explanation for the health effects of these fields has been established. Interestingly, a study had concluded that optimal MF exposure for a definite short period of time could surprisingly and significantly promotes cell growth. Many researchers have proven the good effects of MF exposure such as MF exposure will accelerate the healing of bone fractures and halt the osteoporosis process (Sun *et al.*, 2009; Chalidis *et al.*, 2011; Massari *et al.*, 2009). Accordingly, current study aims to investigate the potential impact of induced static magnetic field (SMF) on human Umbilical Cord-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells (hUC-MSCs) using Samarium Cobalt (SmCo_5).

The rationale of using of MSCs (specifically hUC-MSCs) is that MSCs are capable of differentiating into several cell types namely adipocyte, chondrocyte, osteocytes, neural cells, cardiomyocytes, kidney tissue and hepatocytes. In addition hUC-MSCs are hypoimmunogenic as such they are incapable of inducing an immune response because they do not possess co-stimulatory factors that are indispensable in the course of any immune response. These characteristics make MSCs suitable for the treatment of various diseases that require allogenic cell transplantation without the need to use immunosuppressive drugs. Therefore, the therapeutic potential of hUC-MSCs

can be harnessed by determining the optimal conditions as well as the MF magnitude required to readily stimulate propagation of hUC-MSCs following exposure to MF.

Depending on the magnitude of the MF, cells respond differently when they are exposed to MFs. In fact, MF could alter cells' plasma membrane, change their surface and cytoskeleton, influence their proliferation, and as well as other biological processes. The plasma membrane is a primary biological receiver of magnetic signals, and it responds to MF by changes of its membrane potential, and modulates the distribution and activity of integral membrane proteins and ion channels (e.g., Ca²⁺ channels) (Francisco *et al.*, 2013; Ross *et al.*, 2015).

For the purpose of this study, we designed a controllable model that employs SmCo₅ as the source of MF, and provides simulation of those long-term effects within a relatively short time. Samarium cobalt was chosen as a magnetic source in this experiment because it possesses a strong permanent moment magnetization and stable against the influence of demagnetization. It is also suitable for relatively high temperature experiment and rust resistant so no surface treatment is needed.

Table 1.1 and Table 1.2 show the MF range that is not harmful to human cells and therefore, in line with the experimental propose of this work, through MF exposure small quantity of collected MSCs can be expanded rapidly in a short period of time which can provide a ready-to-use source of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) for various clinical applications.

Table 1.1: The Exogenous magnetic field associated with different sources in homes, workplaces and public areas

Field Source (Exogenous)	Magnetic Level/Electric	(Magnetic Field Range)	References
Natural fields (Earth's magnetic field)	200 V/m	70 μ T	(Zanella, 1998)
Household Appliances	Extremely Low Frequency 50/60 Hz	0.01-0.5 μ T at 1 m 0.1-30 μ T at 0.3 m	(Zanella, 1998)
Microwave and oven	2.45 GHz		(Zanella, 1998)
Office Appliances: -Video Display Terminals (VDT)	30-3,000 Hz	0.02-0.65 μ T at 0.3 m	(Breyse <i>et al.</i> , 1994)
Research Facilities :			
a) Linear accelerator	0	0.1-5 mT	(Zanella, 1998)
b) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	0	1-60 mT	
c) Bubble chamber	0	> 50 mT	
d) Magnetohydrnamic (MHD) generator and fusion plants	0	1-50 mT	
Power System:			
a) 380 KV transmission Line	ExtremelyLow Frequency 50/60 Hz	1-20 μ T	(Zanella, 1998)
b) 15 KV distribution Line		0.05-0.4 μ T	
c) MWh S/C Magnetic Energy Storage (SMES)		0.5 T (maximum accessible field)10 mT at 300 m	
Transportation:			
a) Magnetically-levitated trains	0	2-6 mT (head level) 20-50 mT (floor level)	(Zanella, 1998)
b) Subway	Extremely Low Frequency 50/60 Hz	0.7-1 mT	

Table 1.1 (continued)

Industries:			
a) Welding Machines	0, Extremely Low Frequency 50/60 Hz	0.2-10 mT	(Zanella, 1998)
b) Aluminium Production	0	1-10 mT/60 mT	
c) Security Systems	0.1-10,000 Hz	up to 1 mT	
d) Electric and Induction Furnaces	1-10,000 Hz	5 mT	
e) Average Exposure of workers	0, Extremely Low Frequency 50/60 Hz	1 μ T, electrical 0.17 μ T, non electrical	
Medicine:			
a) Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	0	0.5-2 mT (operator) 2 T (patient)	(Zanella, 1998)
b) Therapeutic devices	12-75 Hz	1-10 mT	
The current limits for magnetic field strengths approved by U.S. Food and drug Administration (FDA)		3 T	(Schafer <i>et al.</i> , 2010)

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