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View Abstract

CONTROL ID: 3713501**SUBMISSION ROLE:** Abstract Submission**AUTHORS**

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Commercial Relationships Disclosure: Sami Al-Nawaiseh: Commercial Relationship(s);Code R (Recipient):Heidelberg Engineering | Christian Burri: Commercial Relationship(s);Code R (Recipient):Heidelberg Engineering | André Schulz: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Philip Wakili: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Gerardo Farese: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Christina Kroetz: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Simon Salzmann: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Brinkmann Ralf: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Sylvia Gasparini: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Boris Povazay: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Martin Frenz: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Peter Szurman: Commercial Relationship(s);Code C (Consultant/Contractor):Geuder, Novartis, Bayer | Marius Ader: Commercial Relationship: Code N (No Commercial Relationship) | Boris Stanzel: Commercial Relationship(s);Code C (Consultant/Contractor):Geuder, Novartis, Apellis;Code F (Financial Support):Geuder, Catalent, Vitreq, Medone Surgical;Code R (Recipient):Bayer, Iridex, Heidelberg Engineering, Geuder

Study Group: (none)

ABSTRACT

TITLE: Short-term follow up after Large-Area RPE Removal by Microsecond Laser followed by hiPS-RPE suspension transplantation in rabbits

ABSTRACT BODY:

Purpose: Cell therapy is a promising treatment for retinal pigment epithelium (RPE)-associated eye diseases. Herein, microsecond laser irradiation targeting RPE cells was used for large-area RPE removal followed by subretinal injection of human induced pluripotent stem cell derived RPE (hiPS-RPE).

Methods: 19 immunosuppressed pigmented rabbits (Chinchilla bastard hybrid) underwent a large area RPE removal using an infrared reflectance (IR) confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscope (cSLO) with spectral-domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) system (Heidelberg Engineering) extended with a prototype laser (modified Merilas 532 shortpulse ophthalmic laser photocoagulator, Meridian Medical) (wavelength, 532 nm; pulse duration, 8 µs), followed by a 25G vitrectomy. Subsequently, a suspension of hiPS-RPE (1000 cells/µl) was grafted subretinally into the RPE laser lesion under real-time intraoperative OCT imaging (RESCAN 700, Zeiss) by manual injection via a 25/38G cannula connected to a 100µl Hamilton syringe. 5 rabbits served as a control with hiPS-RPE injected subretinally over healthy RPE. The rabbits were followed with in vivo multimodal retinal imaging at baseline after laser and then for 7 days including fluorescein (FA) and indocyanine angiography (ICGA), as well as SD-OCT (Spectralis®, Heidelberg Engineering).

Results: Baseline imaging of RPE laser wounds showed mild late phase FA/ICGA leakage, with normal outer retinal and choroidal reflectivity on OCT, without signs of coagulation. The size of the RPE wounds was

typically 10-12mm². Real time iOCT showed a directed spread of the bleb retinal detachment (bRD) within the lasered zone, in contrast to a circular spread in controls. Subretinal injection ranged from 5-20µl, with lesser volumes/ larger bRD areas over lasered regions. At 7 days, implanted regions showed FA/ICGA leakage, blockage due to hyperpigmentation was observed mostly at the edges of the lasered zone; OCT showed hyperreflectivity of the outer retina with RPE irregularities. Control implantation sites showed hyperreflectivity in all retinal layers and a variably thickened RPE band suggesting clumping.

Conclusions: Microsecond laser irradiation to the RPE seems to accelerate the subretinal integration of hiPS-RPE, when compared to subretinal injection over intact RPE. Future work will address correlation of multimodal imaging and histology.

(No Image Selected)

Layman Abstract (optional): Provide a 50-200 word description of your work that non-scientists can understand. Describe the big picture and the implications of your findings, not the study itself and the associated details.: The results from this study hints that RPE cell suspension transplants implanted onto a laser lesion might integrate as a monolayer. Laser pretreatment with subsequent minimally invasive subretinal RPE injection may enhance technology adoption given a simplified procedure.

DETAILS

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Other Registry Site (Abstract): (none)

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AWARDS:

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