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Citation for published version (APA):

Isaksson, H. E., Donkelaar, van, C. C., Huijkes, H. W. J., & Ito, K. (2006). *Effect of rate and frequency on bone regeneration during distraction osteogenesis*. Poster session presented at Mate Poster Award 2006 : 11th Annual Poster Contest.

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2006

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of Record (includes final page, issue and volume numbers)

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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Effect of rate and frequency on bone regeneration during distraction osteogenesis

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Introduction

- The **aim** was to use a mechano-regulation algorithm based on deviatoric strain and fluid flow¹ to simulate bone regeneration during distraction osteogenesis, and evaluate the influence of distraction rate and frequency on the bone regeneration pathways.

Methods

- The model was based on an earlier experimental study² that evaluated bone segment transport in ovine tibial shaft defects (20, 45 mm) over an intramedullary nail (Fig. 1a).
- Distraction started at post operative day 1 with rate of 1mm/day until defect was closed. Additionally, rates of 0.5mm and 0.25 mm/day and frequencies of 0.5mm 2 times/day and 0.25mm 4 times/day were evaluated.

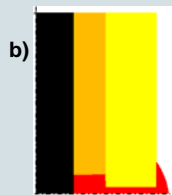
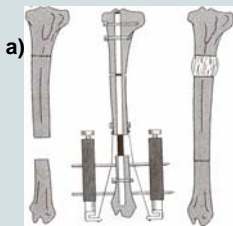


Figure 1
a) Experimental model for bone segment transport
b) 2D axisymmetric FE model of ovine tibia.

- Depending on the magnitudes of deviatoric strain and fluid velocity¹ calculated in the FE, cells that migrated and differentiated into fibroblasts, chondrocytes or osteoblasts (Fig. 2). Cell type dependent matrix production was simulated by adding fixed charges and allow swelling³. Tissues were modeled as linear poroelastic.

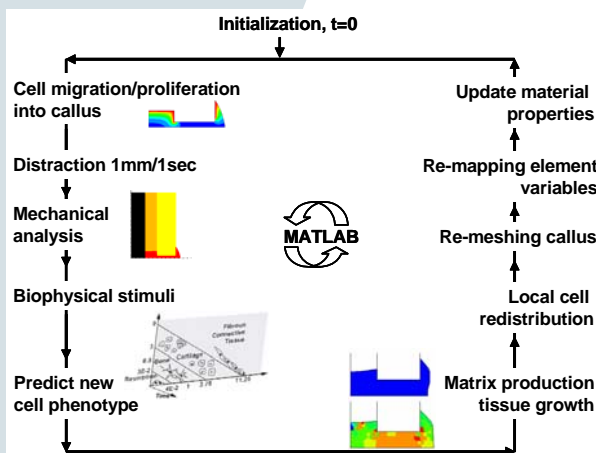
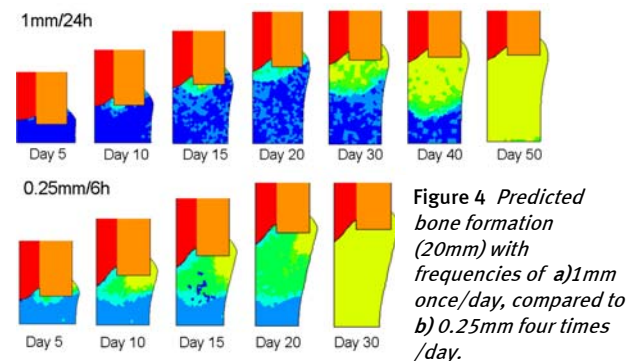
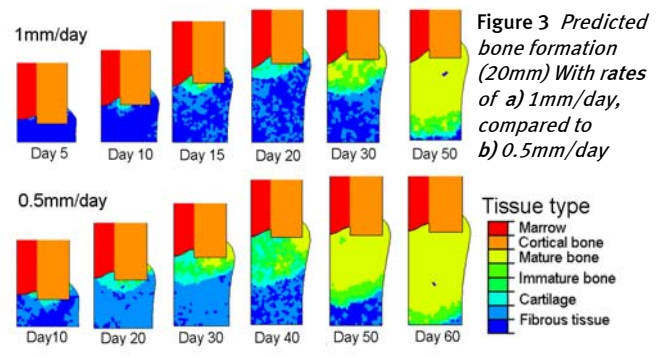


Figure 2 Model to predict tissue differentiation.

Results

- The predicted bone formation pattern due to changes in distraction rate or distraction frequency was overall similar to experimental observations by others (Fig. 4 & Fig. 5)



Discussion

- Mechano-regulation based on deviatoric strain and fluid velocity can predict bone formation during DO.
- Lower distraction rate (< 1 mm/day) increased the time needed for complete ossification. Higher distraction frequencies (2 or 4 times/day) decreased time needed for complete ossification. Hence, were beneficial on the bone regeneration process.
- Decreased rate or increased frequency resulted in higher relative amounts of intramembranous bone formation compared to endochondral bone formation via cartilage intermediate.
- This promising model might be used to optimize and evaluate variations in DO treatment protocols.

References

- [1] Lacroix D, J Biomech, 2002 [2] Brunner UH, CORR, 1994 [3] Wilson W, J Biomech Eng, 2005

