

Stimulation and characterisation of muscle progenitor cell differentiation

Citation for published version (APA): Boonen, K. J. M., Hesselink, R. P., Bouten, C. V. C., & Post, M. J. (2006). *Stimulation and characterisation of muscle progenitor cell differentiation*. 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:

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Stimulation and Characterisation of Muscle Progenitor Cell Differentiation

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Introduction

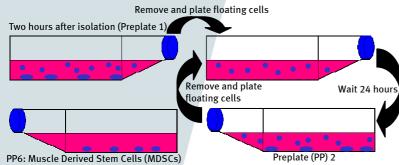
Muscle is the largest metabolic organ and the main storage site of proteins in the body. Moreover, animal muscle tissue is the main source of dietary protein intake in a large part of the world. Both properties make muscle an organ of interest for tissue engineers. We aim to produce high quality muscle tissue from muscle progenitor cells in a cost efficient, reproducible way.

Currently, our main concern is isolating a cell population from adult muscle that has a high proliferation capacity while preserving the ability to differentiate into muscle.

Methods for cell isolation

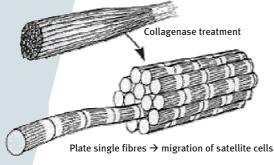
Preplating technique¹

Pig muscle tissue is minced, treated with 0.2% collagenase type I, 4 ug/ml prot. K and 0.1% trypsin consecutively, and cultured in gelatin-coated flasks in a series of preplates.



Single fibre isolation²

Mouse Extensor Digitorum longus (EDL) is treated with 0.2% collagenase type I, triturated and cultured in 1mg/ml matrigel-coated wells.



Results

Muscle derived stem cells

The cells isolated with the preplating technique (figure 1) have a high proliferation capacity, showing no sign of slowing down after twelve passages. However, the population of cells present in preplate six is still a very heterogeneous population and has not yet been successfully differentiated to myotubes under low serum conditions.

PP6 p1 12,5% serum PP6 p6 12,5% serum PP6 p6 2% serum

Figure 1 Preplating technique

Satellite cells

When single muscle fibres are isolated and cultured, satellite cell migrate out of the fibres and start proliferating (figure 2). The proliferation capacity of these cells has been shown to be quite poor *in vitro* compared to the *in vivo* situation³, but they do spontaneously differentiate and fuse into myotubes.

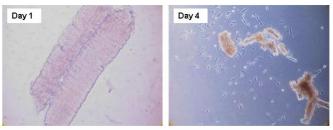


Figure 2 Single fibres in culture

Conclusion

MDSCs have a high proliferation capacity, but do not easily differentiate to myotubes. In contrast, isolated satellite cells spontaneously differentiate to myotubes, but have a low proliferation capacity. However, *in vivo*, the number of population doublings does not seem to be limited³.

Future plans

We will focus on satellite cells isolated from single fibres, because their differentiation potential is much better compared to the MDSCs. We want to improve the proliferation capacity of these cells by mimicking their *in vivo* milieu making use of different coatings and additives to the culture medium.

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