Stem Cell Care India

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

LITERATURE

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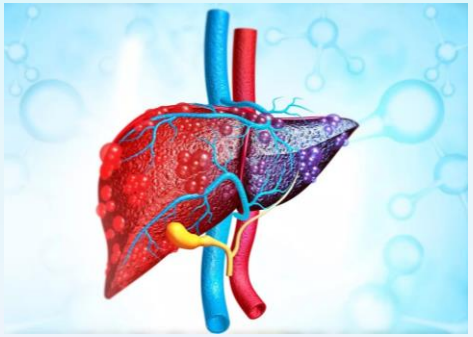
❖ Liver Disease

➢ Stem Cell-Based Therapies for Liver Diseases: An Overview and Update



Liver disease is one of the top causes of death globally. Although liver transplantation is a very effective treatment strategy, the shortage of available donor organs, waiting list mortality, and high costs of surgery remain huge problems. Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can differentiate into a variety of cell types. Scientists are exploring the possibilities of generating hepatocytes from stem cells as an alternative for the treatment of liver diseases.

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➢ Pre-treatments enhance the therapeutic effects of mesenchymal stem cells in liver diseases

Liver diseases caused by viral infection, alcohol abuse and metabolic disorders can progress to end-stage liver failure, liver cirrhosis and liver cancer, which are a growing cause of death worldwide. Although liver transplantation and hepatocyte transplantation are useful strategies to promote liver regeneration, they are limited by scarce sources of organs and hepatocytes. Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) restore liver injury after hepatogenic differentiation and exert immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory, antifibrotic, antioxidative stress and antiapoptotic effects on liver cells in vivo.

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➢ Progress in mesenchymal stem cell–based therapy for acute liver failure

Acute liver failure is a life-threatening clinical syndrome characterized by rapid development of hepatocellular necrosis leading to high mortality and resource costs. Numerous treatment strategies for acute liver failure simply prevent complications and decelerate disease progression. The only curative treatment for acute liver failure is liver transplantation, but there are many restrictions on the application of liver transplantation. In recent years, a growing number of studies have shown that stem cells can effectively treat acute liver failure. Several types of stem cells have been used to study liver diseases; mesenchymal stem cells are most commonly used because they are easy to obtain and present no ethical problems. The aims of this article are to review the current knowledge regarding therapeutic mechanisms of mesenchymal stem cells in acute liver failure, to discuss recent advancements in preclinical and clinical studies in the treatment of mesenchymal stem cells, and to summarize the methodological improvement of mesenchymal stem cell transplantation in treating liver failure

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➢ Stem cell transplantation for treating liver diseases: progress and remaining challenges

With the development of regenerative medicine, various stem cells are increasingly considered for treating liver diseases. Various stem cells have been reported to play an essential role in liver recovery, and studies have verified the preliminary effectiveness and safety of these therapies.

Stem cell-based therapies will emerge as an effective treatment strategy for liver diseases. Thus, the research progress and challenges to the related stem cells were reviewed, namely the classification of stem cells, cell culture, transplantation, cell tracing in the body, therapies for various liver diseases.

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➢ Therapeutic efficiency of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells for liver fibrosis: A systematic review of *in vivo* studies

Although multiple drugs are accessible for recovering liver function in patients, none are considered efficient. Liver transplantation is the mainstay therapy for end-stage liver fibrosis. However, the worldwide shortage of healthy liver donors, organ rejection, complex surgery, and high costs are prompting researchers to develop novel approaches to deal with the overwhelming liver fibrosis cases. Mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) therapy is an emerging alternative method for treating patients with liver fibrosis. However, many aspects of this therapy remain unclear, such as the efficiency compared to conventional treatment, the ideal MSC sources, and the most effective way to use it..

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➢ Systematic review: the effects of autologous stem cell therapy for patients with liver disease

As morbidity and mortality from liver disease continues to rise, new strategies are necessary. Liver transplantation is not only an expensive resource committing the patient to lifelong immunosuppression but also suitable donor organs are in short supply. Against this background, autologous stem cell therapy has emerged as a potential treatment option.

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➢ Stem cell therapy in chronic liver disease

Purpose of review: To provide an overview of the current status of liver regeneration therapies for liver cirrhosis and future prospects.

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➢ Recent advances in liver stem cell therapy

Purpose of review: Patients with liver cirrhosis often require liver transplantation, which remains the only effective treatment of the end-stage cirrhosis.

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➢ The use of stem cells in liver disease

Purpose of review: Cell transplantation to restore liver function as an alternative to whole liver transplantation has thus far not been successful in humans.

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