

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

LITERATURE

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literature page



❖ Retinitis Pigmentosa

➤ Bone marrow-derived stem cells preserve cone vision in retinitis pigmentosa

Retinitis pigmentosa is a heritable group of blinding diseases resulting from the loss of photoreceptors, primarily rods and secondarily cones, that mediate central vision. Loss of retinal vasculature is a presumed metabolic consequence of photoreceptor degeneration. A new study shows that autologous bone marrow-derived lineage-negative hematopoietic stem cells, which incorporate into the degenerating blood vessels in two murine models of retinitis pigmentosa, **rd1** and **rd10**, prevent cone loss. The use of autologous bone marrow might avoid problems with rejection while preserving central cone vision in a wide variety of genetically disparate retinal degenerative diseases.

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➤ Stem cell treatment of degenerative eye disease

Stem cell therapies are being explored extensively as **treatments** for degenerative **eye disease**, either for replacing lost neurons, restoring neural circuits or, based on more recent evidence

as paracrine-mediated therapies in which stem cell-derived **trophic factors** protect compromised endogenous **retinal neurons** from death and induce the growth of new connections. Retinal progenitor phenotypes induced from embryonic stem cells/induced pluripotent stem cells (ESCs/iPSCs) and endogenous retinal stem cells may replace lost photoreceptors and retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells and restore vision in the diseased eye, whereas treatment of injured retinal **ganglion** cells (RGCs) has so far been reliant on **mesenchymal stem cells** (MSC).

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➤ Recent advances of stem cell therapy for retinitis pigmentosa

Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is a group of inherited retinal disorders characterized by progressive loss of photoreceptors and eventually leads to retina degeneration and atrophy. Until now, the exact pathogenesis and etiology of this disease has not been clear, and many approaches for RP therapies have been carried out in animals and in clinical trials.

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➤ Bone Marrow-derived Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapy in Retinitis Pigmentosa

To determine the effectiveness of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cell therapy on visual acuity and visual field in patients with retinitis pigmentosa.

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➤ **Stem cell therapy: a novel approach for vision restoration in retinitis pigmentosa**

Unfortunately, at present, degenerative retinal diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa remains untreatable. Patients with these conditions suffer progressive visual decline resulting from continuing loss of photoreceptor cells and outer nuclear layers. However,

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➤ **Stem cell transplantation as a progressing treatment for retinitis pigmentosa**

Retinal degenerative diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa (RP) are of the major causes of vision loss in developed countries. Despite the unclear pathophysiology, treatment methods have been investigated vastly in the past decades.

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