

SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA - ROMAGNA  
Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli di Bologna  
Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico



Dipartimento  
**RIZZOLI**  
Research  
Innovation  
Technology



# *Cellule e fattori di crescita nelle patologie cartilaginee*

*Andrea Facchini*

*Laboratorio di Immunoreumatologia e rigenerazione tessutale*

*Istituto ortopedico Rizzoli, Università degli Studi di Bologna*

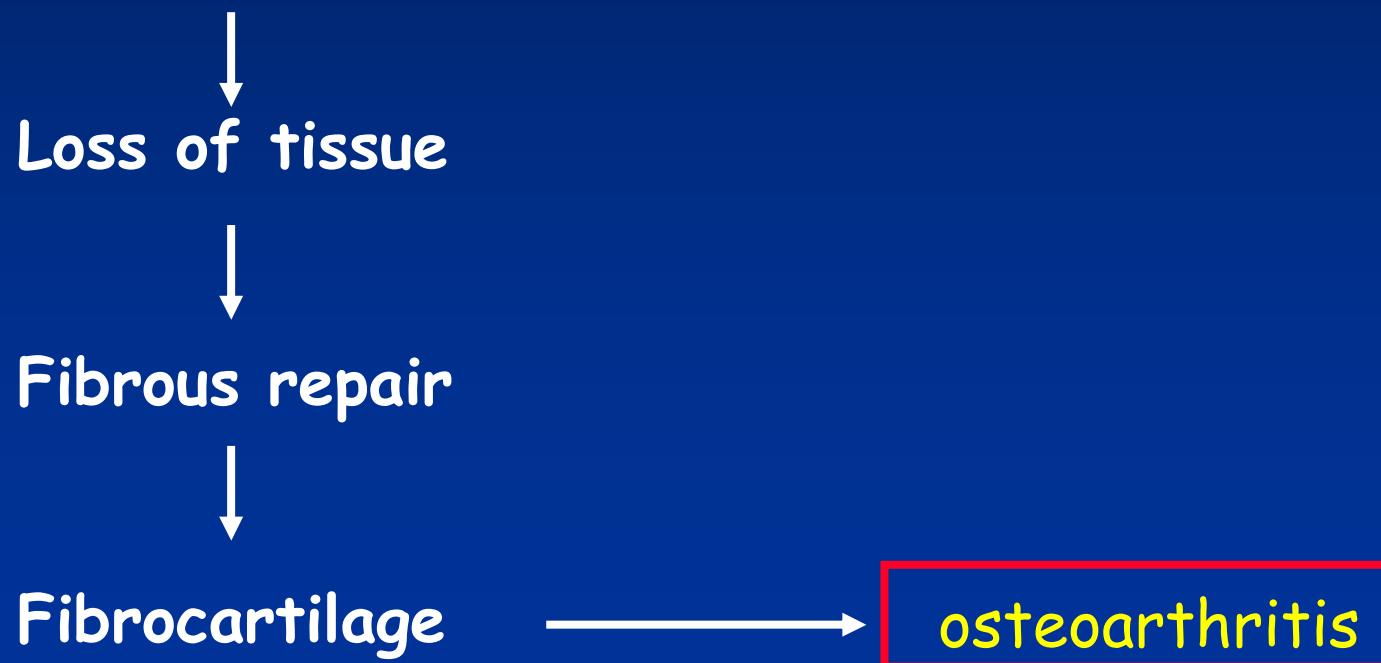
XVII Corso Nazionale di Aggiornamento SIdEM,  
Palermo-Mondello 18-20 Ottobre 2012

# CLINICAL PROBLEM

John Hunter (1728-1793)

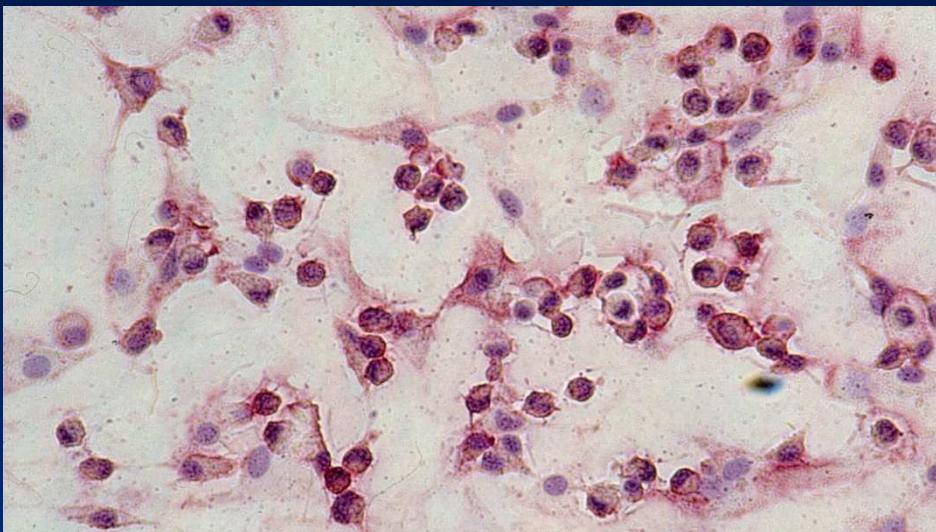
"Ulcerated cartilage is a troublesome thing,  
once destroyed, it is not repaired..."

Cartilage damage (acute/chronic)





**Collagen II (Control)**



Chondrocytes p=0

↑ Expression of Collagen II  
↑ Proteoglycans (aggrecan)  
↓ Expression of Collagen I  
↑ FGF R3  
↑ BMP-2



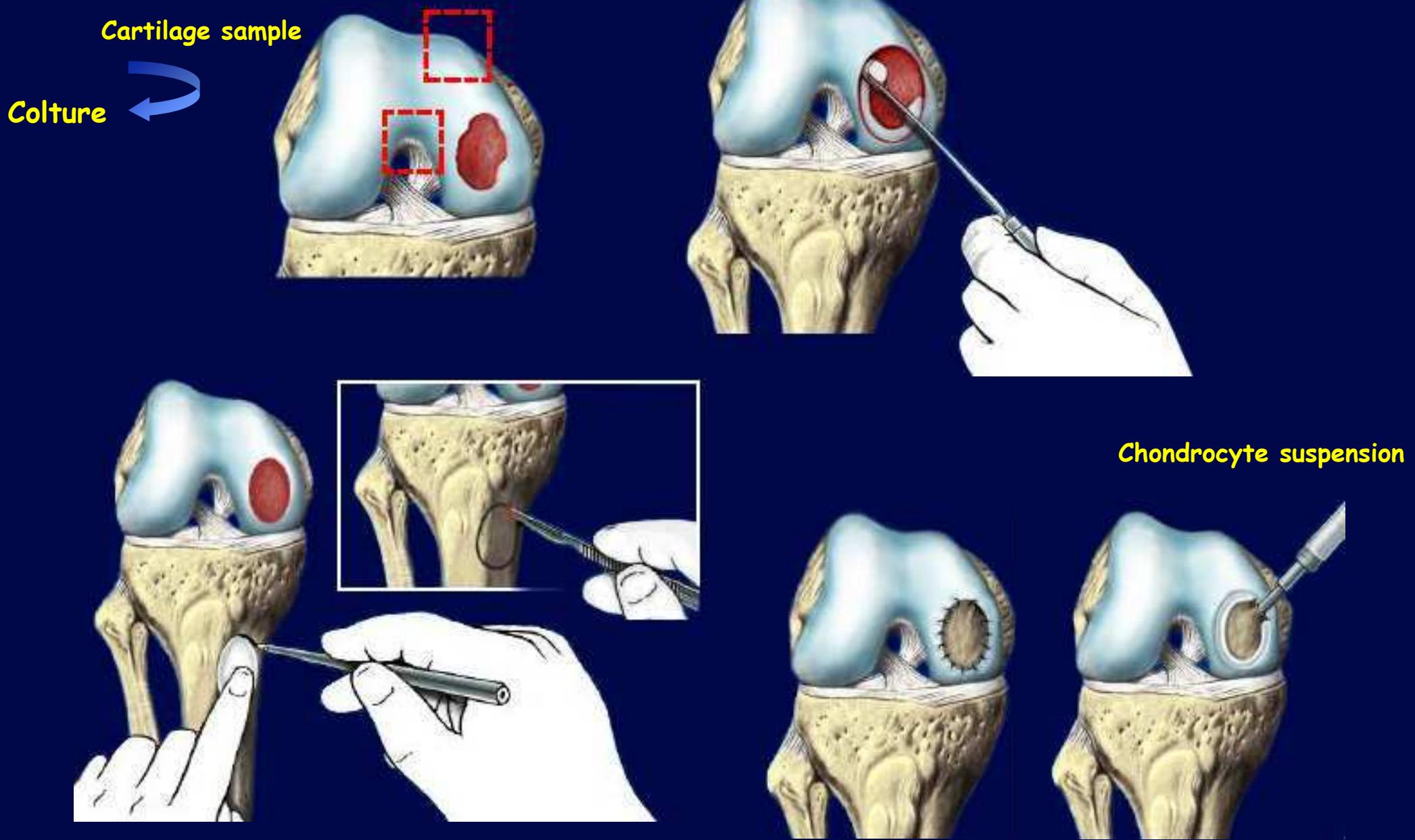
Chondrocytes p=3/4/5/6.....

↓ Expression of collagen II  
↑ Expression of proteoglycans (versican)  
↑ Expression of Collagen I  
↓ Activin receptor-like kinase 1



De-differentiation process

# Autologous chondrocyte transplantation

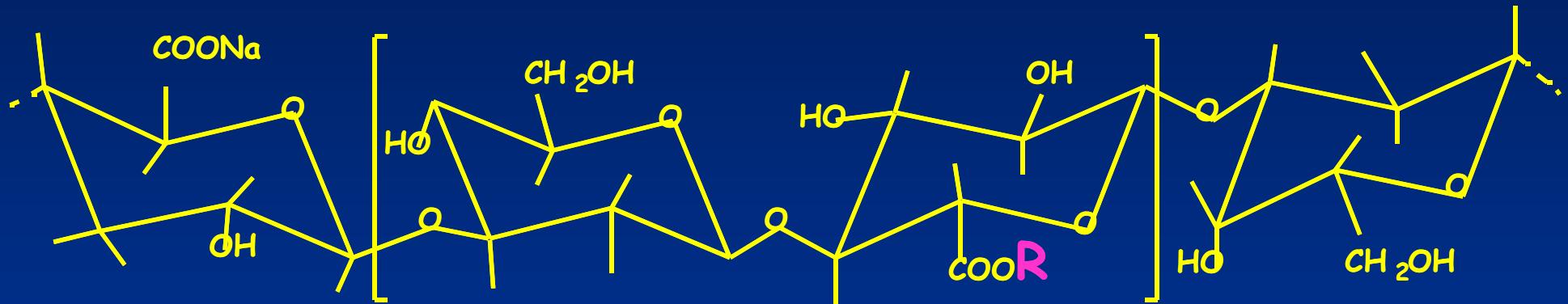


## 2nd generation ACT Cells seeded on three-dimensional scaffolds

### Main advantages

- ✓ Good handling properties (growth and differentia.)
- ✓ No periosteal flap required
- ✓ Suitable for large defects
- ✓ Can be applied by mini-arthrotomy or arthroscopy (reduced surgical and recovery time)

# HYAFF® (FAB)



Derived from total esterification of the carboxyl groups (R) of hyaluronic acid with benzyl alcohol residue

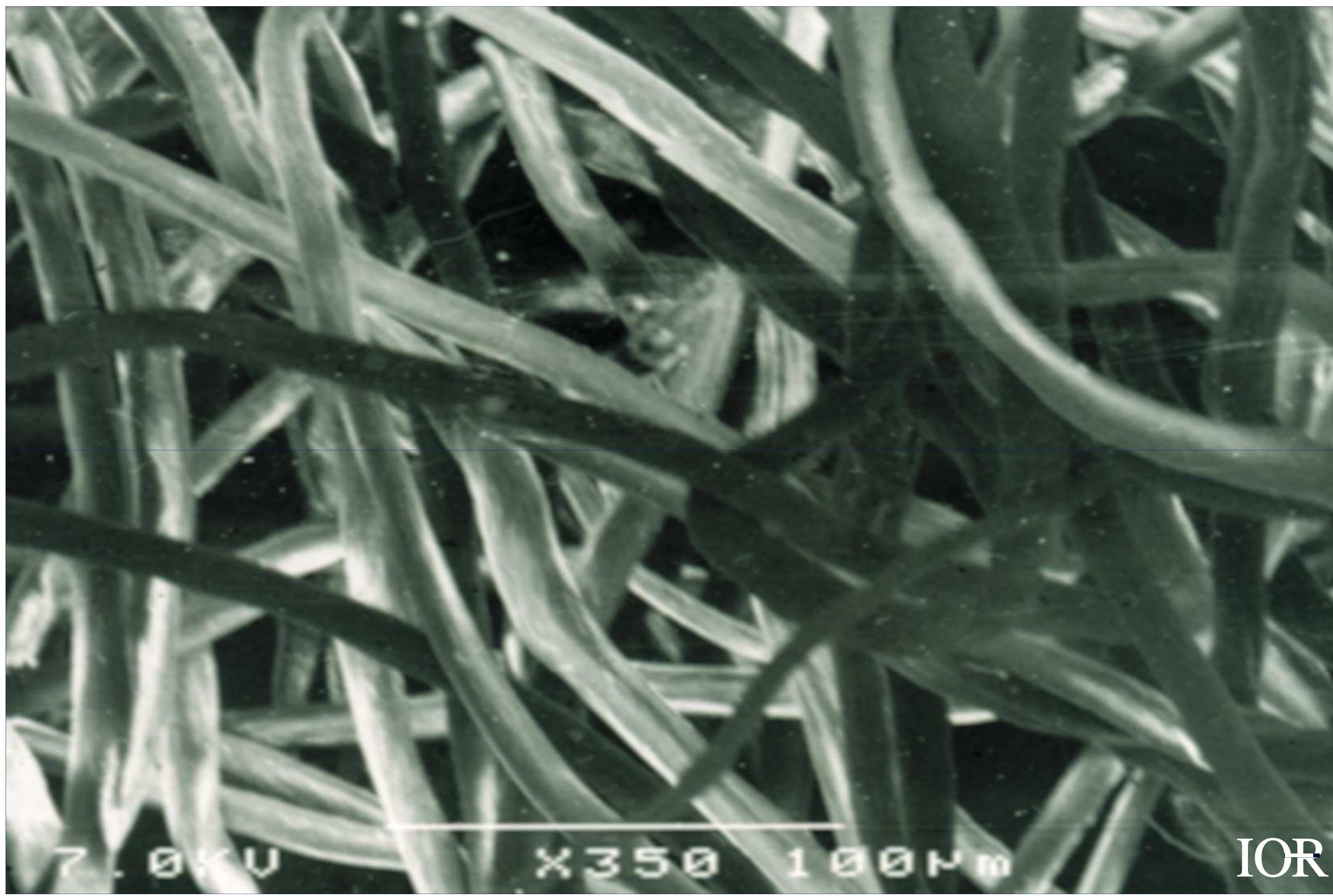
IOR

# Development of a 3D scaffold for cartilage engineering



## Hyaff-11 non-woven pad

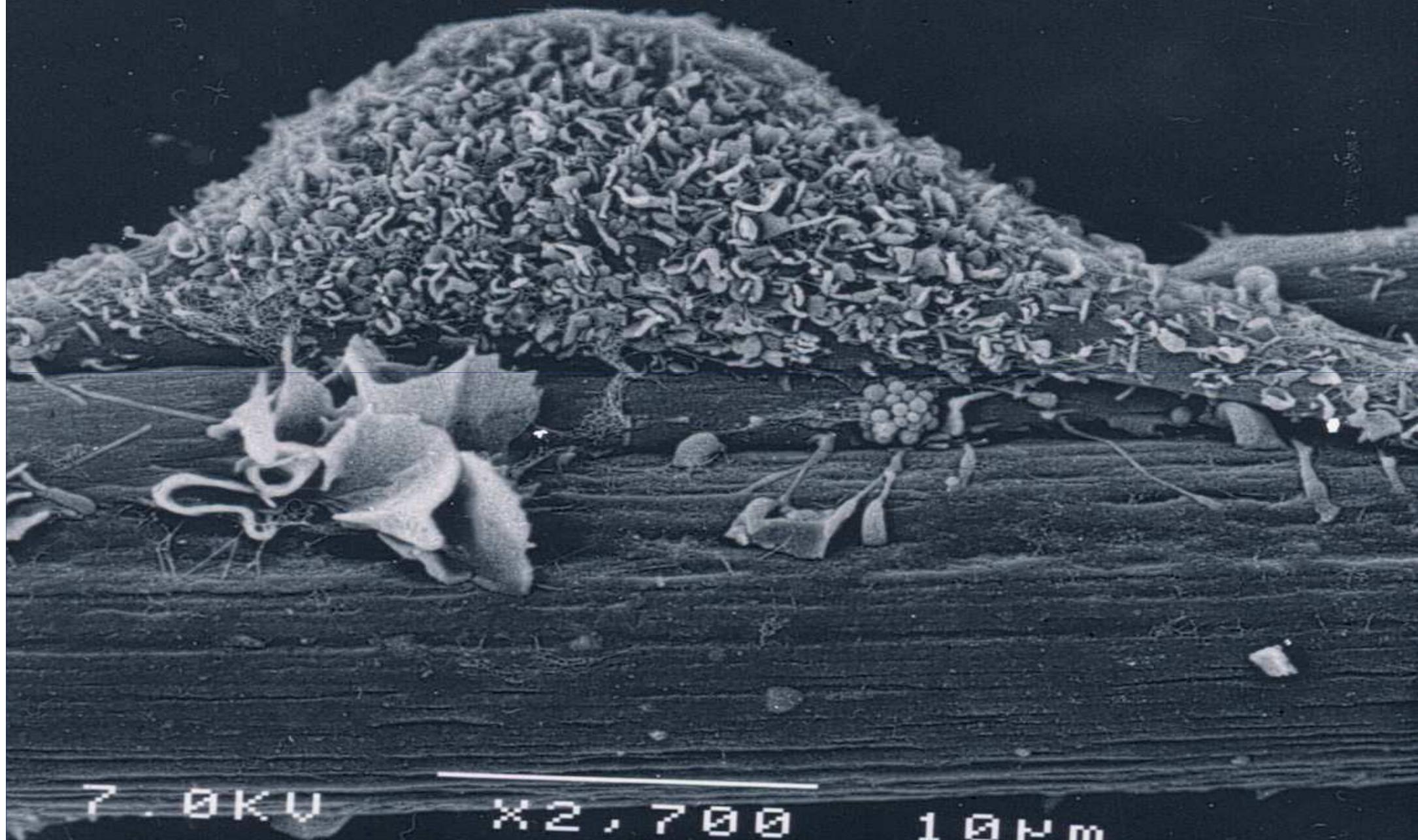
- Fibre diameter: 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- Weight: 120 g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Thickness: 2 mm



P. O. KU

X350 100μm

IOR



7.0KV

X2,700

10 μm



## Evidence for redifferentiation of human chondrocytes grown on a hyaluronan-based biomaterial (HYAFF® 11): molecular, immunohistochemical and ultrastructural analysis

Brunella Grigolo<sup>a</sup>, Gina Lisignoli<sup>a</sup>, Anna Piacentini<sup>a</sup>, Mauro Fiorini<sup>a</sup>, Pietro Gobbi<sup>b</sup>, Giovanni Mazzotti<sup>b</sup>, Manuela Duca<sup>c</sup>, Alessandra Pavesio<sup>c</sup>, Andrea Facchini<sup>a,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Laboratorio di Immunologia e Genetica, Istituto di Ricerca Codivilla-Putti, Istituti Ortopedici Rizzoli, Via di Barbiano 1/10, 40136 Bologna, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Unità Complessa di Scienze Anatomiche Umane e Fisiopatologia dell'Apparato Locomotore, Università di Bologna, Via Irnerio 48, 40126 Bologna, Italy

<sup>c</sup> Flidia Advanced Biopolymers, Via Ponte della Fabbrica 3/A, 33037 Abano Terme, Padova, Italy

<sup>d</sup> Dipartimento di Medicina Interna e Gastroenterologia, Università di Bologna, Via Massarenti 9, 40138 Bologna, Italy

Received 1 January 2001; accepted 22 June 2001



## Transplantation of chondrocytes seeded on a hyaluronan derivative (Hyaff®-11) into cartilage defects in rabbits

Brunella Grigolo<sup>a</sup>, Livia Roseti<sup>a</sup>, Mauro Fiorini<sup>a</sup>, Milena Fini<sup>b</sup>, Gianluca Giavaresi<sup>b</sup>, Nicolò Nicoli Aldini<sup>b</sup>, Roberto Giardino<sup>b</sup>, Andrea Facchini<sup>a,c,\*</sup>

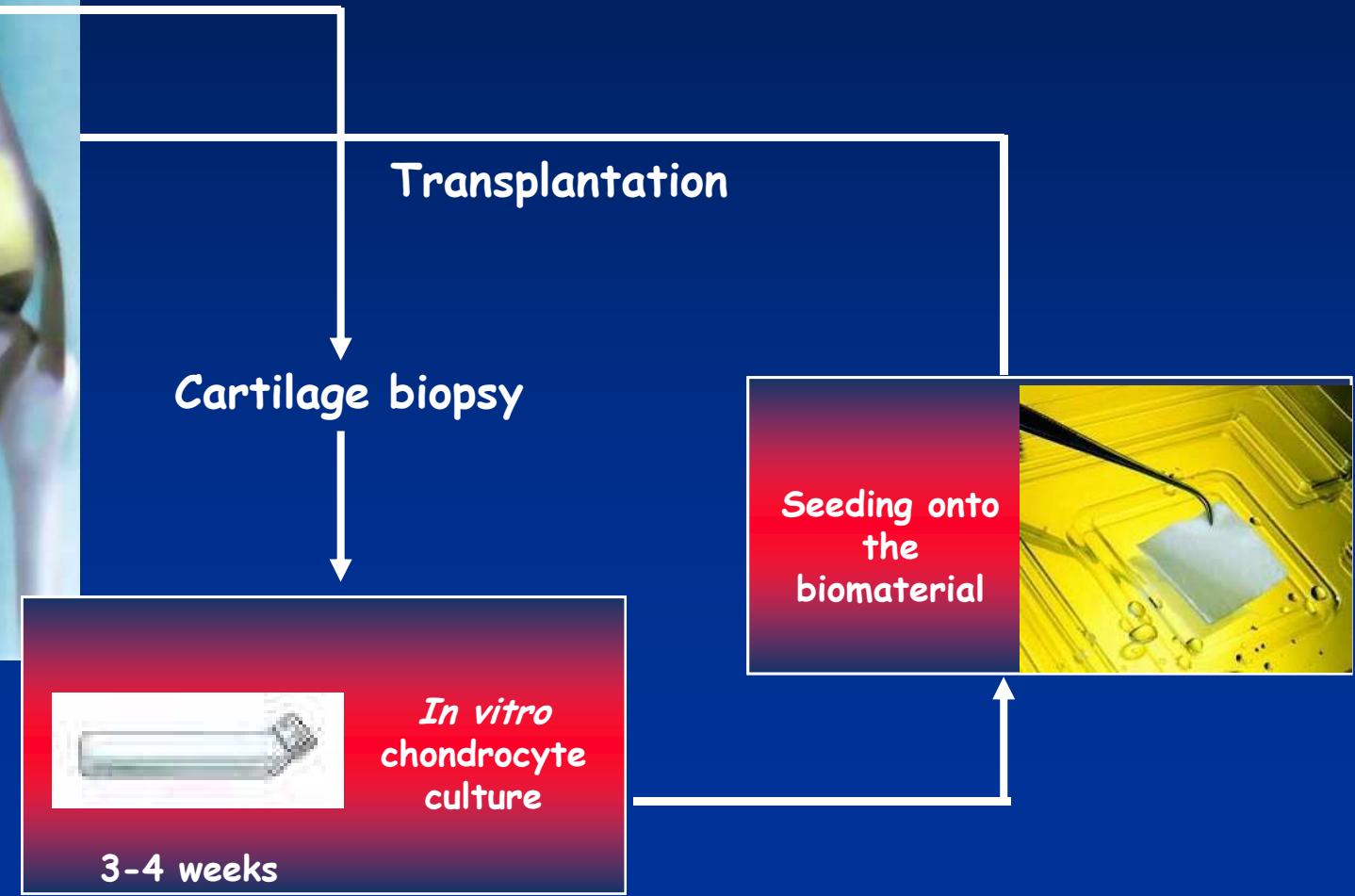
<sup>a</sup> Laboratorio di Immunologia e Genetica, Istituto di Ricerca Codivilla-Putti, Istituti Ortopedici Rizzoli, Via di Barbiano 1/10, 40136 Bologna, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Servizio di Chirurgia Sperimentale, Istituto di Ricerca Codivilla-Putti, Istituti Ortopedici Rizzoli, Via di Barbiano 1/10, 40136 Bologna, Italy

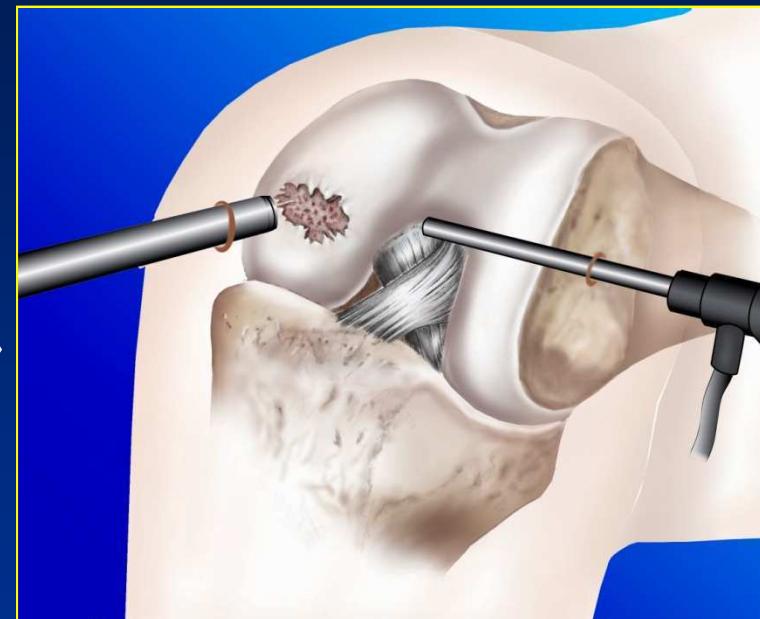
<sup>c</sup> Dipartimento di Medicina Interna e Gastroenterologia, Università degli Studi di Bologna, Via Massarenti 9, 40138 Bologna, Italy

Received 10 July 2000; accepted 7 December 2000

# Autologous chondrocyte transplantation by the use of Hyaff-11 scaffold (Hyalograft C)



# Clinical application of a biocompatible scaffold (Hyalograft C) for cartilage defects of the knee

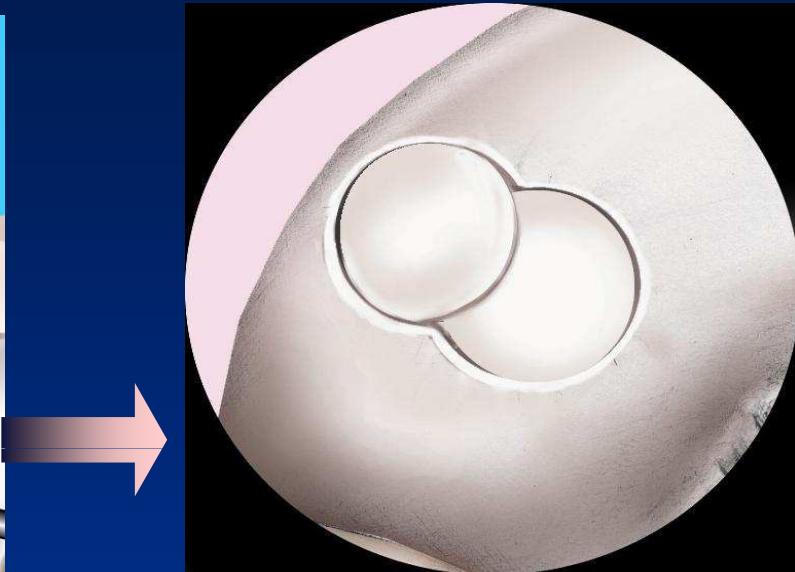
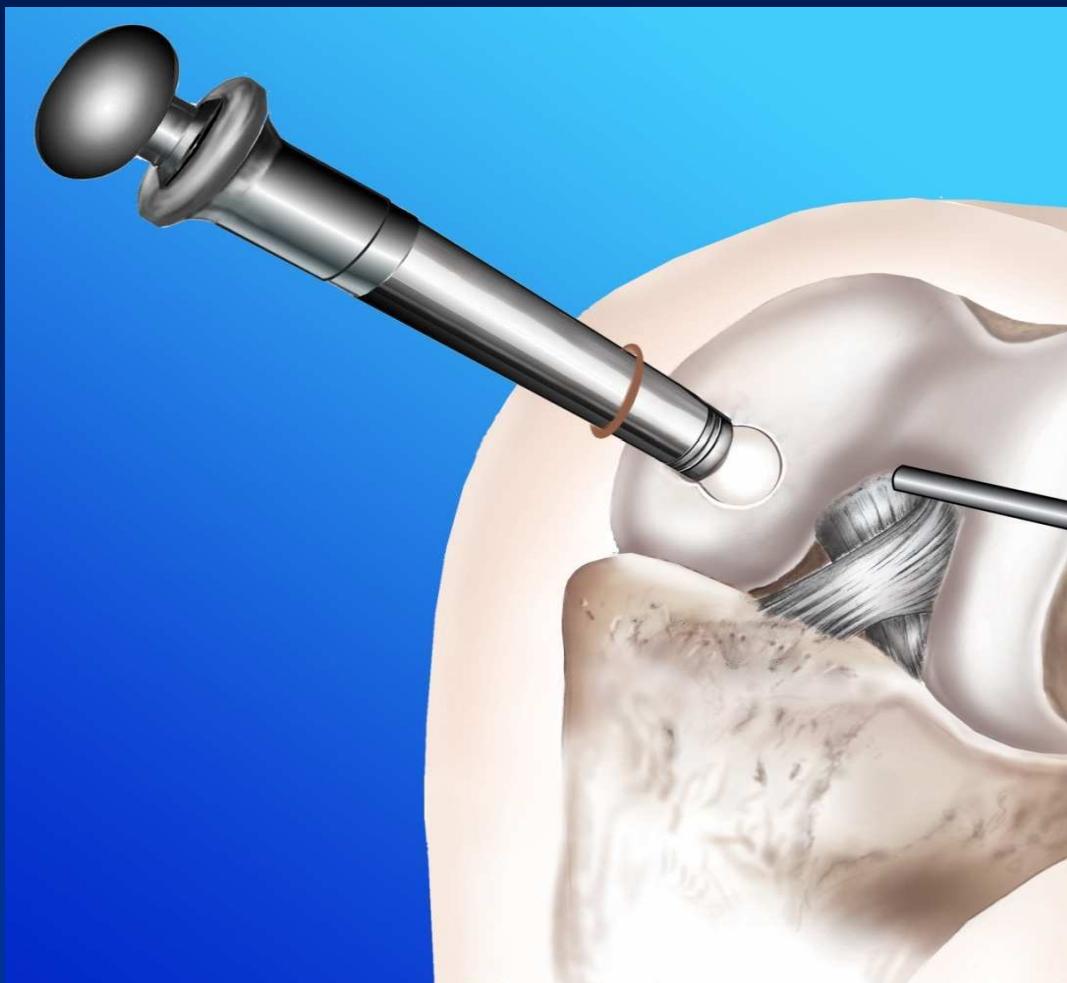


HYALOGRAFT C  
TRANSPLANT THROUGH  
MINI-ARTHROTONY

DEVELOPMENT OF  
ARTHROSCOPIC IMPLANT  
TECHNIQUE

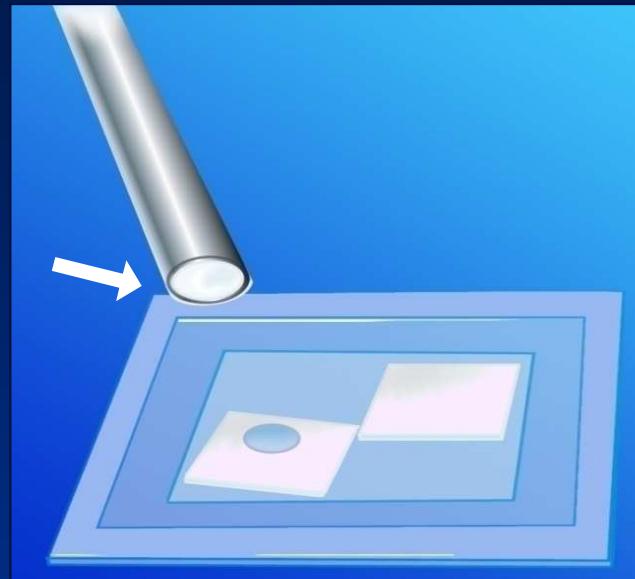
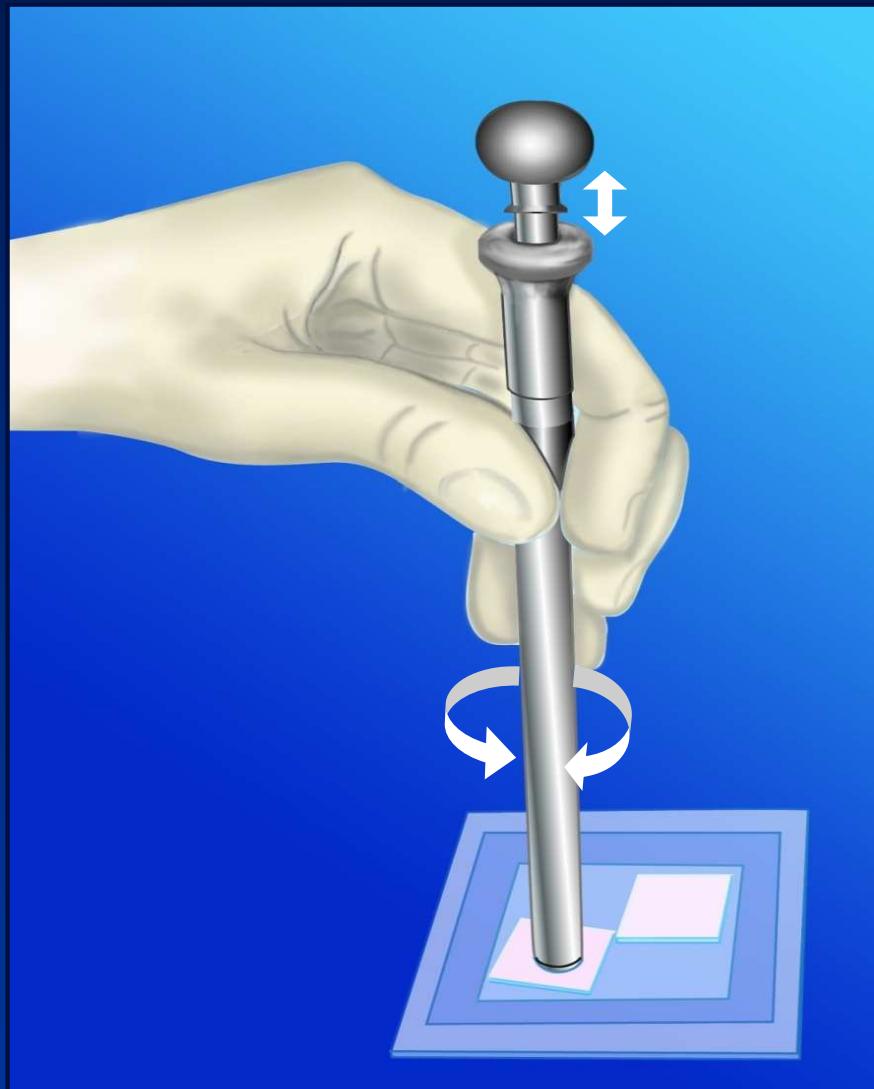
Marcacci M et al. Knee Surg Sport Art, 2002, 2007

# LESS INVASIVE NEW TECHNIQUE FOR CARTILAGE REGENERATION



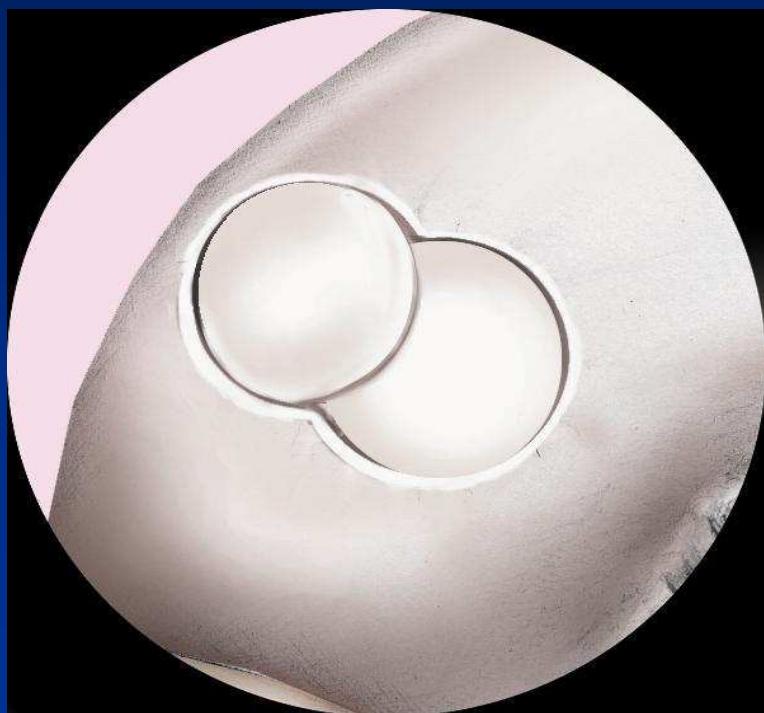
Marcacci M et al. Knee Surg Sport Art, 2002; 2007

# LESS INVASIVE NEW TECHNIQUE FOR CARTILAGE REGENERATION



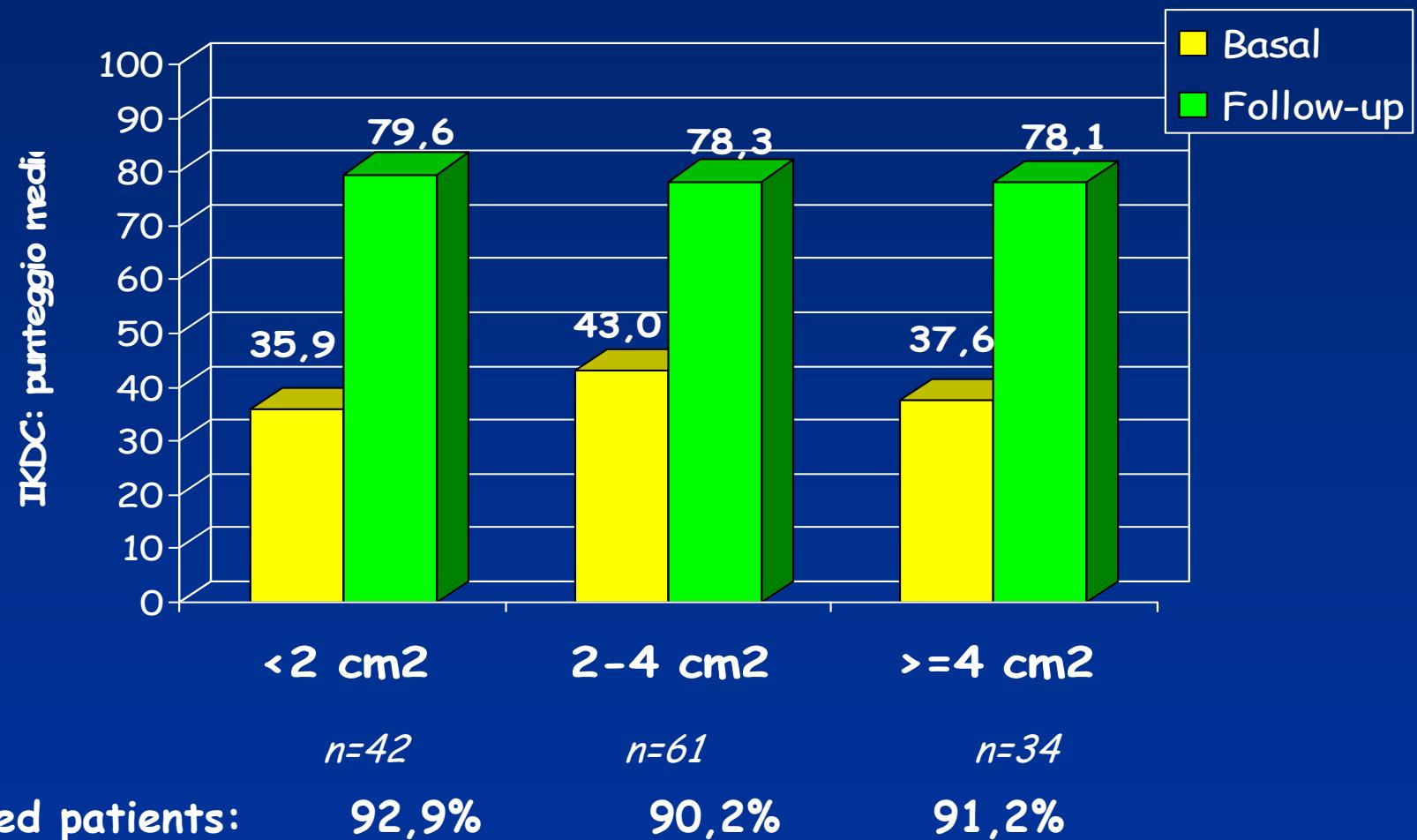
Marcacci M et al. Knee Surg Sport Art, 2002; 2007

# LESS INVASIVE NEW TECHNIQUE FOR CARTILAGE REGENERATION

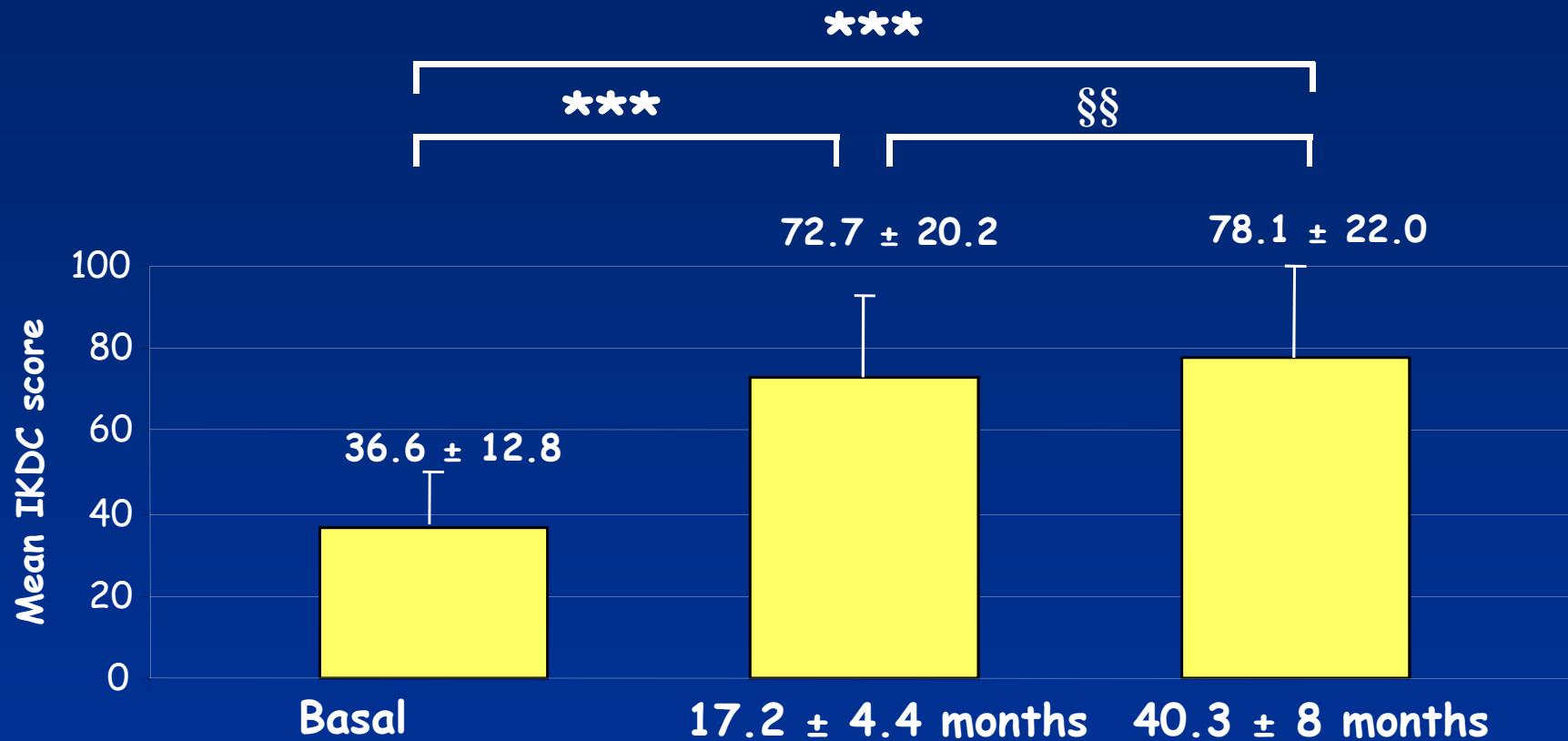


Marcacci M et al. Knee Surg Sport Art, 2002; 2007

# IKDC patient evaluation: Basal vs follow-up related to lesion size



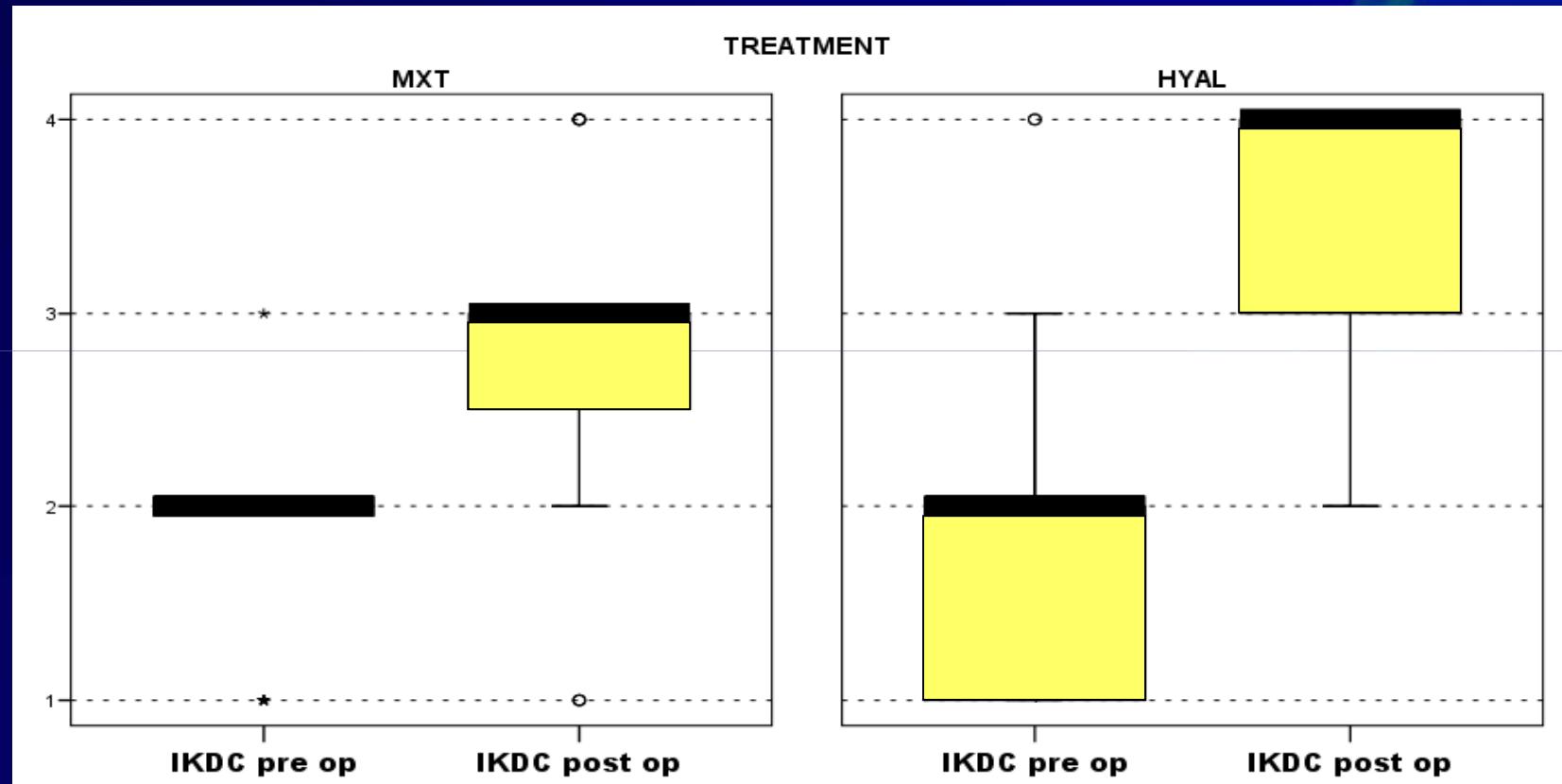
## Mean IKDC score vs time (n=109)



Significant difference among groups  
(\*\* p<0.0001, §§ p< 0.005 Paired t-test)

# VALUTAZIONE OGGETTIVA IKDC a 5 ANNI

MICROFRACTURE vs HYALOGRAFT C

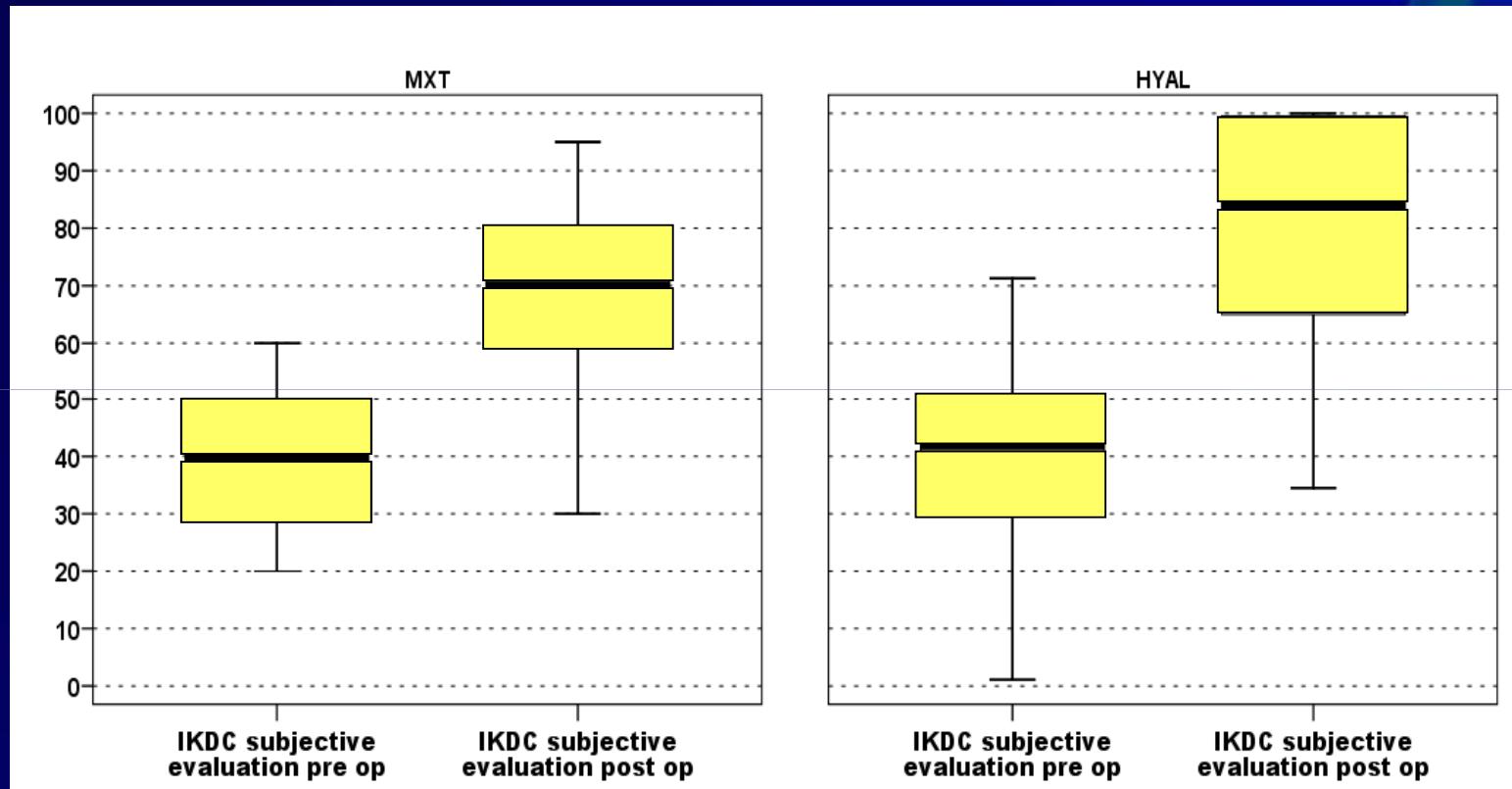


p<0,0005



# VALUTAZIONE SOGGETTIVA IKDC a 5 ANNI

MICROFRACTURE vs HYALOGRAFT C

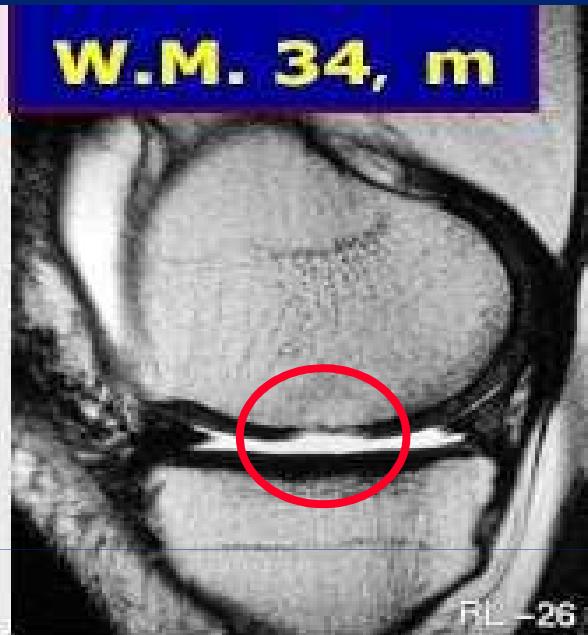


p=0,0003

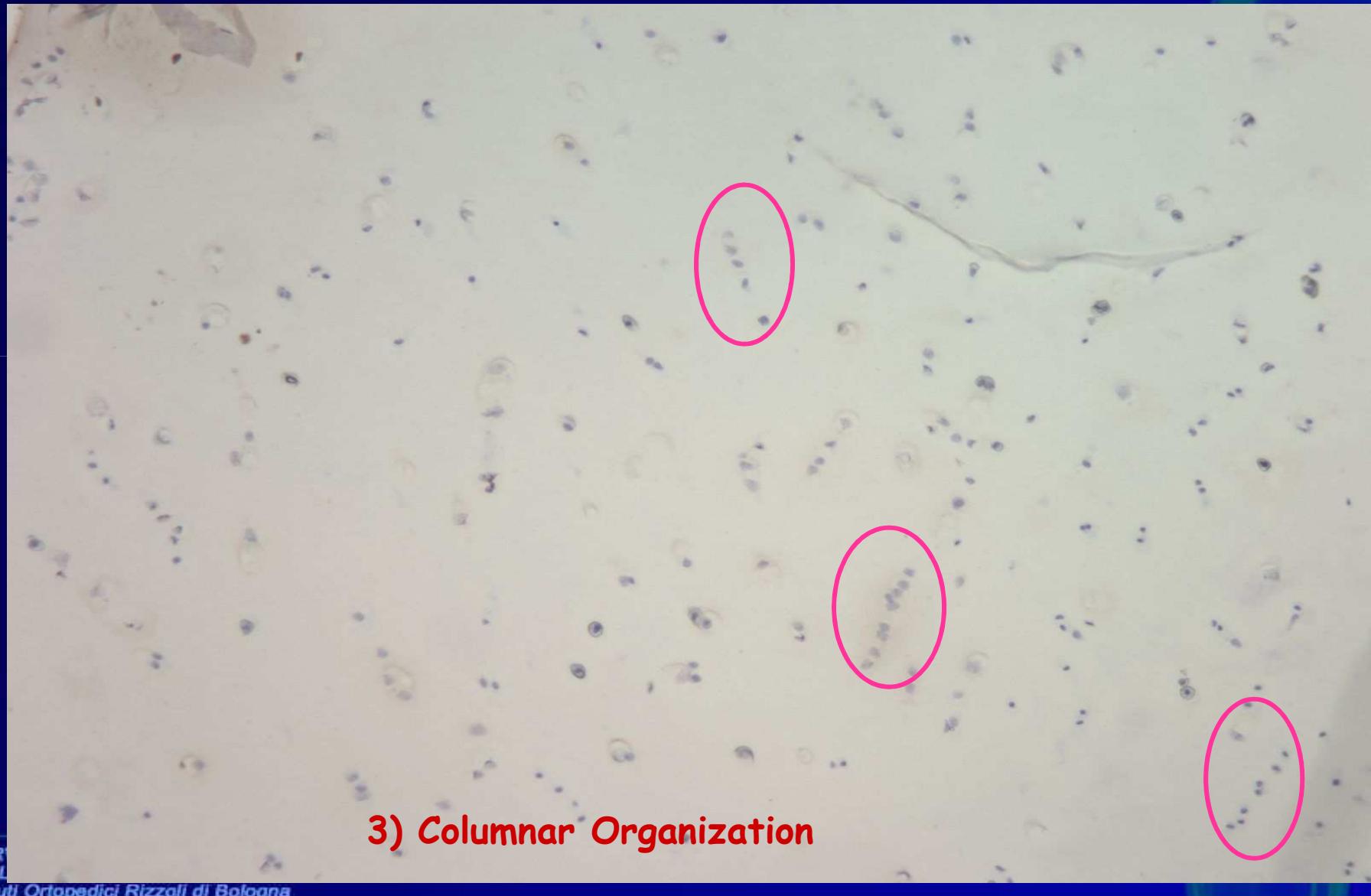


# Graft stability - MRI results

W.M. 34, m

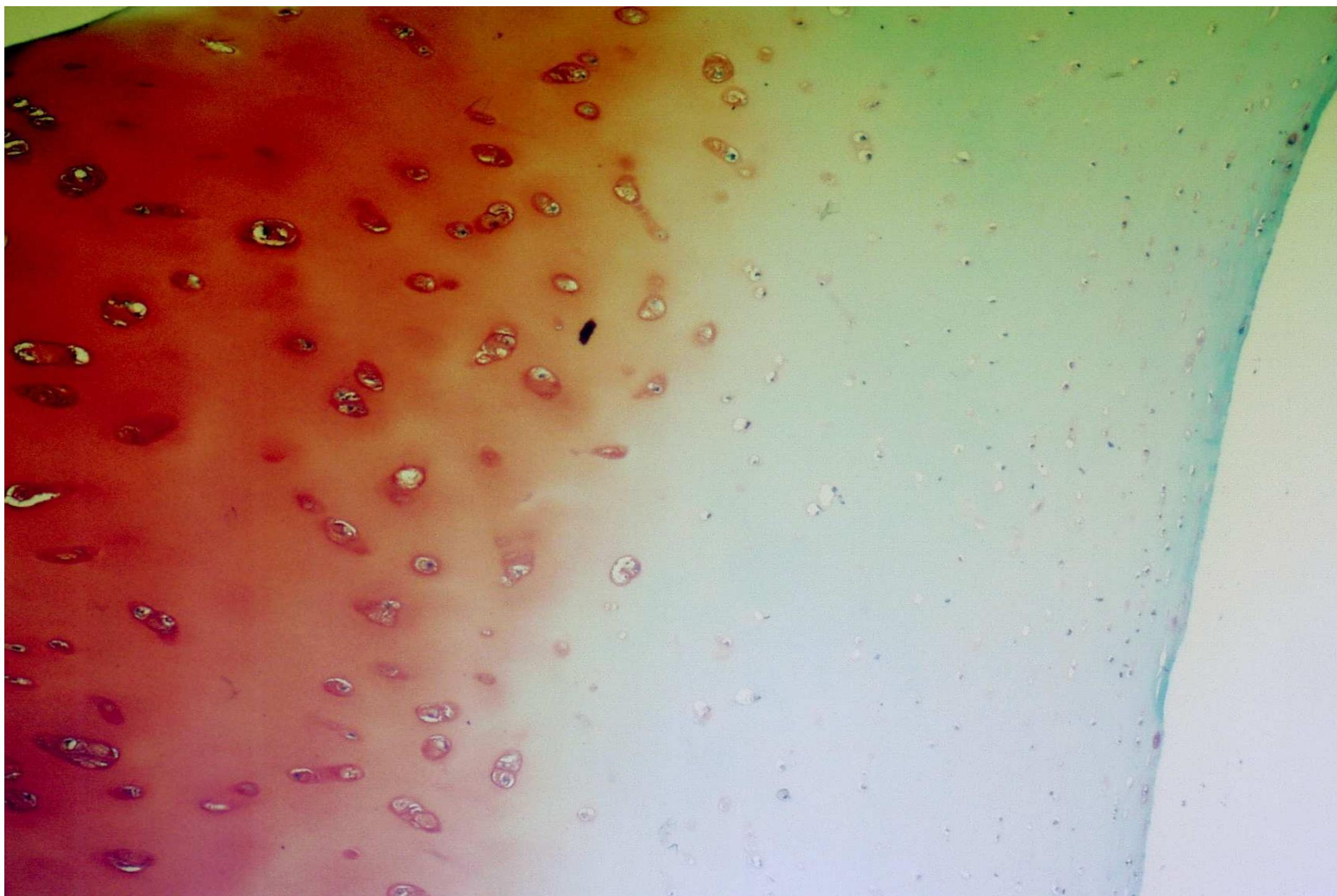


# Cartilage maturation: columnar re-organization



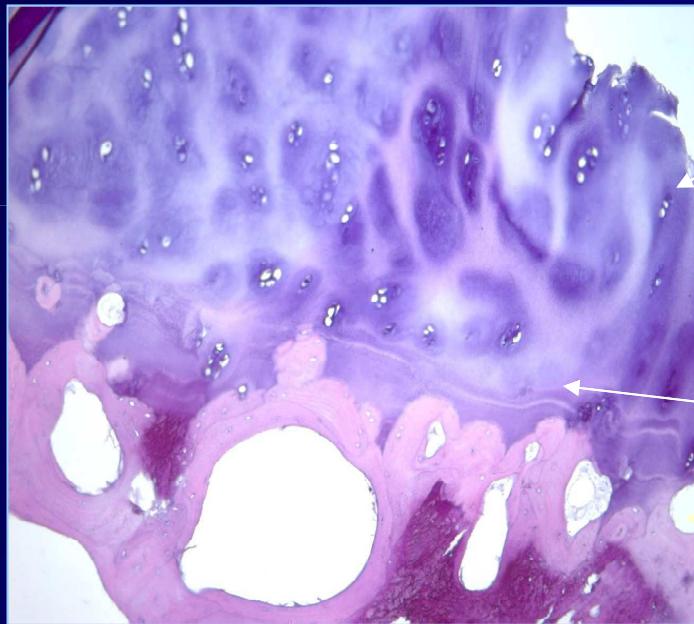
3) Columnar Organization



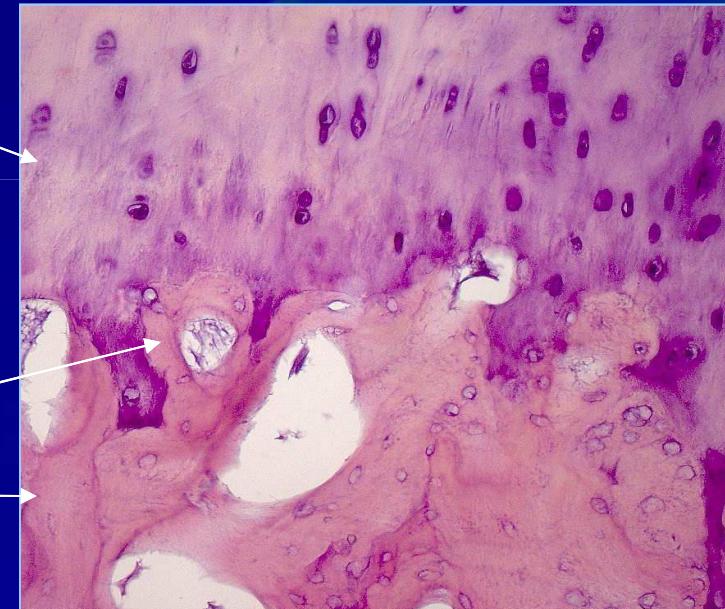


# Integration with subchondral bone

Normal Cartilage



II<sup>o</sup> look Biopsy



# STUDIO COMPARATIVO



SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA - ROMAGNA  
Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli di Bologna  
Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico

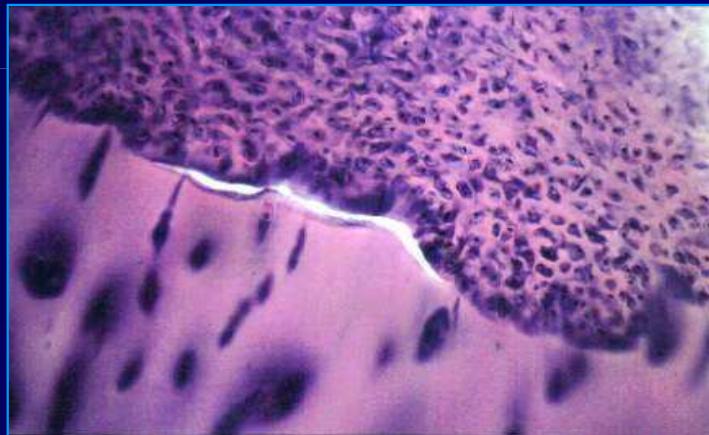


## MICROFRATTURE vs HYALOGRAFT C

40 PAZIENTI

VS

40 PAZIENTI



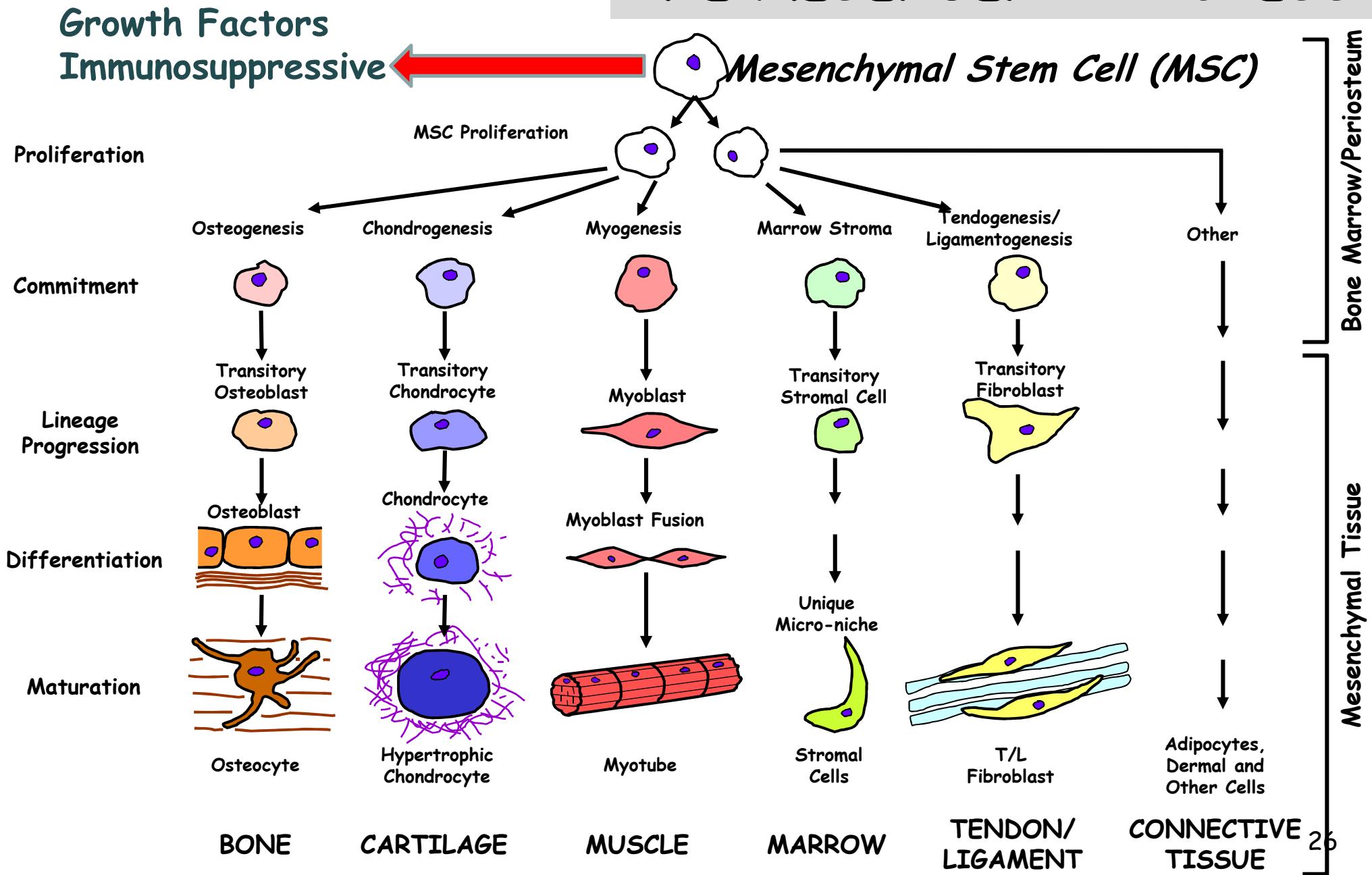
Kon E, Gobbi A, Filardo G, Delcogliano M, Zaffagnini S and Marcacci M

*Arthroscopic Second Generation Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation Compared with Microfracture treatment for chondral lesions of the Knee.*

*Am J Sport Med, 2009*

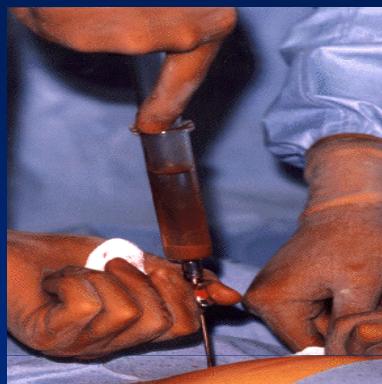
The American Journal of  
**Sports  
Medicine**  
[www.ajsm.org](http://www.ajsm.org)

# THE MESENGENIC PROCESS



# Main sources for human MSC, e.g.:

Bone Marrow

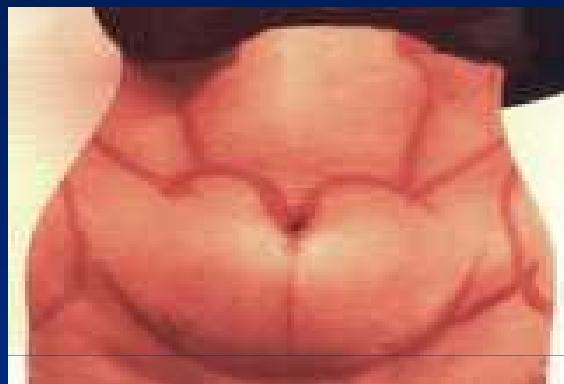


Pittenger M, et al.  
Science 1999



Best characterised  
(Pre-) Clinically used

Adipose Tissue



Zuk P, et al.  
Tissue Eng. 2001



High MSC Frequency  
(Pre-) Clinically used



Invasive procurement  
Age related detriments

From: K.Bieback ,2007

Umbilical Cord Blood/  
Amnios/Placenta



Erices AA et al.  
Brit. J. Haematol. 2000

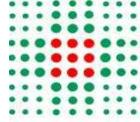


Youngest Adult Stem Cells  
Easily Accessible



MSC present in term CB?  
Low frequency  
Fresh UCB units needed

-  
Invasive procurement  
Age related detriments ?



SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA - ROMAGNA  
Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli di Bologna  
Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico



Dipartimento  
RIZZOLI  
Research  
Innovation  
Technology



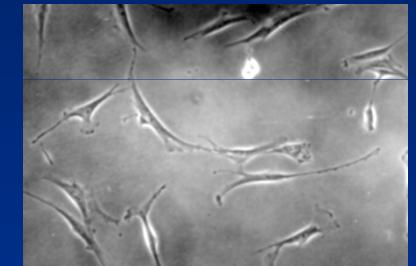
# H-MSCs isolation and culture expansion

Bone marrow  
aspirate

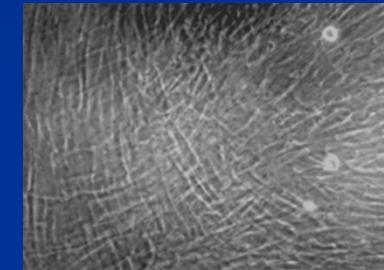
Centrifugation

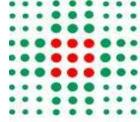
1.073g/ml Percoll

Plate cells at  
interface → Colony formation



Primary Culture



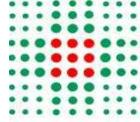


## hMSCs markers

- There is not a single marker for their identification
- They are generally positive for: **CD29** (fibronectin R), **CD44** (hyaluronic acid R), **CD73/SH3** (Ecto-5-endonuclease), **CD90** (Thy-1,HSC) **CD105/SH2** (endoglin ,TGF $\beta$ 1-3R);; **CD147** (neurotelin), **CD166**, **CD271** (NGFR) and **STRO-1**.
- They are generally negative for: **CD14** ( $M\emptyset$ ), **CD31** (endothelial cells), **CD34** (HSC), **CD45** (CLA), **CD117**(SCFR).

Minimal ITSC criteria for MSC identification

Mariani E, Facchini A Curr.Pharm. Des. 2012



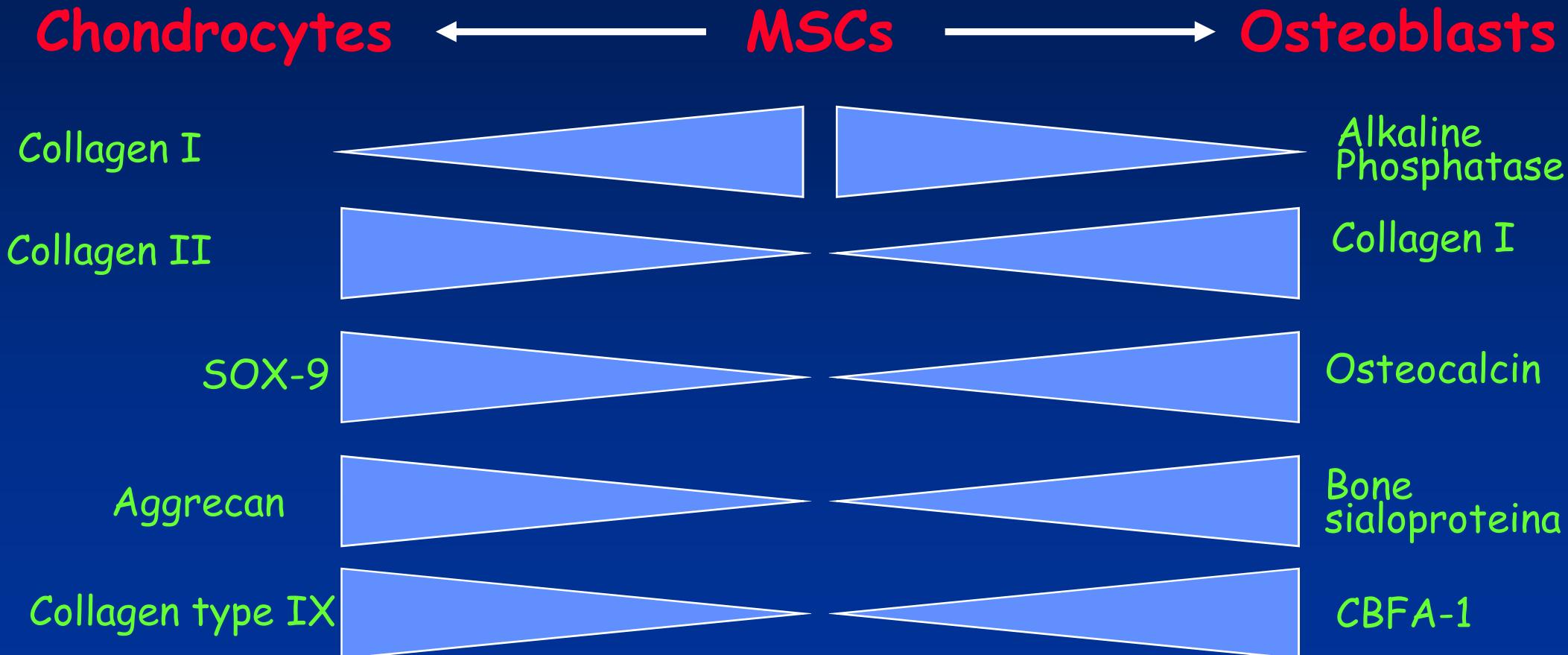
SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA - ROMAGNA  
Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli di Bologna  
Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico



Dipartimento  
RIZZOLI  
Research  
Technology



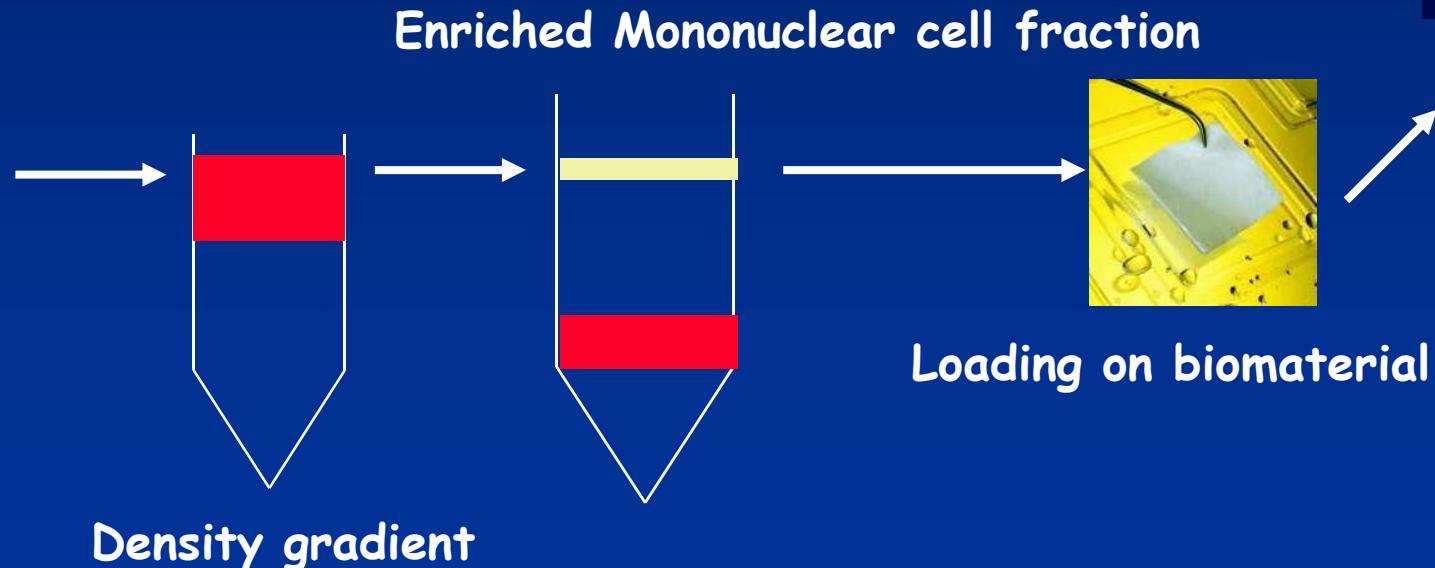
# Gene expression during MSC differentiation



# Procedure “one step”: BMMSCs

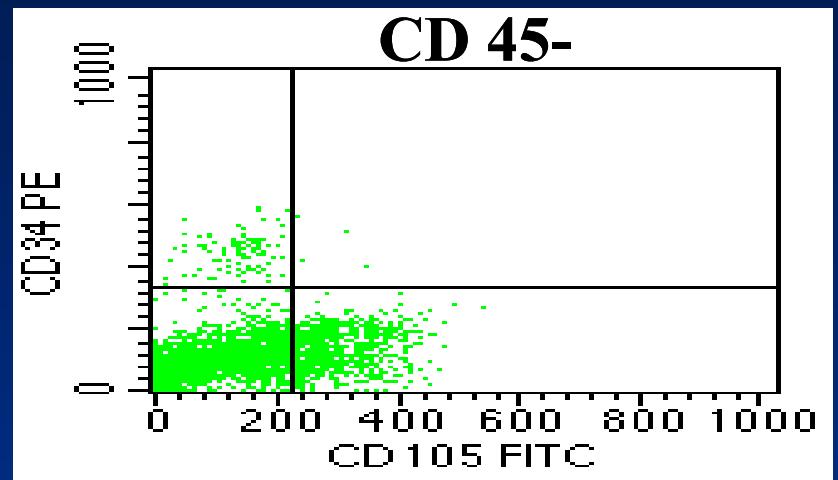
All procedures are performed during surgery

Eg: BM /Fat

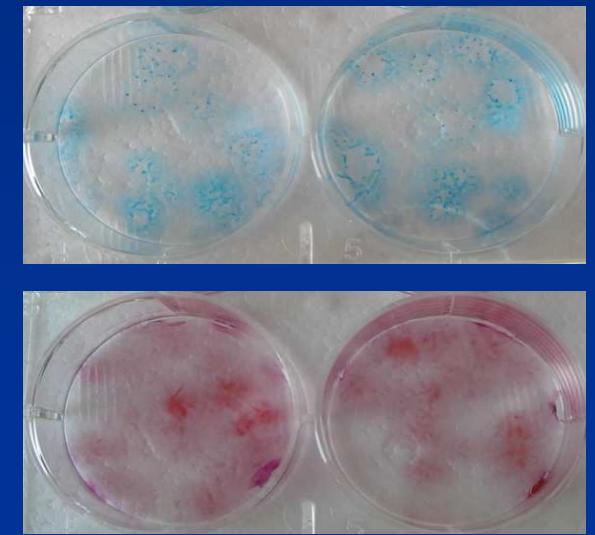


# CELL PHENOTYPE AND DIFFERENTIATION

FACS Analysis  
CD 34-/ CD45- /CD 105+



In vitro differentiation potential  
Chondrogenic  
Osteogenic

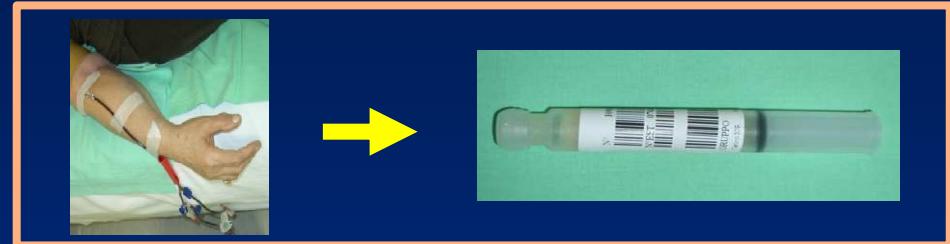


## “One step” procedure

*Bone marrow concentrated stem cells + scaffold (Hyaff 11)*



### 1) Platelet gel production (growth factors)



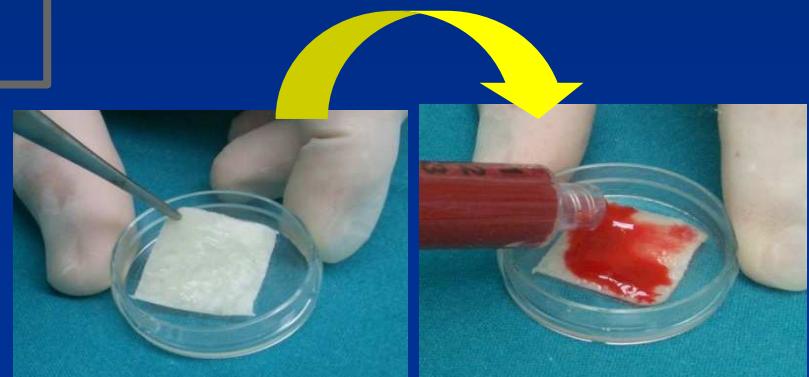
## 2) Marrow concentration (dedicated centrifuge)



### 3) Concentrated BM Stem cells loaded on biomaterial

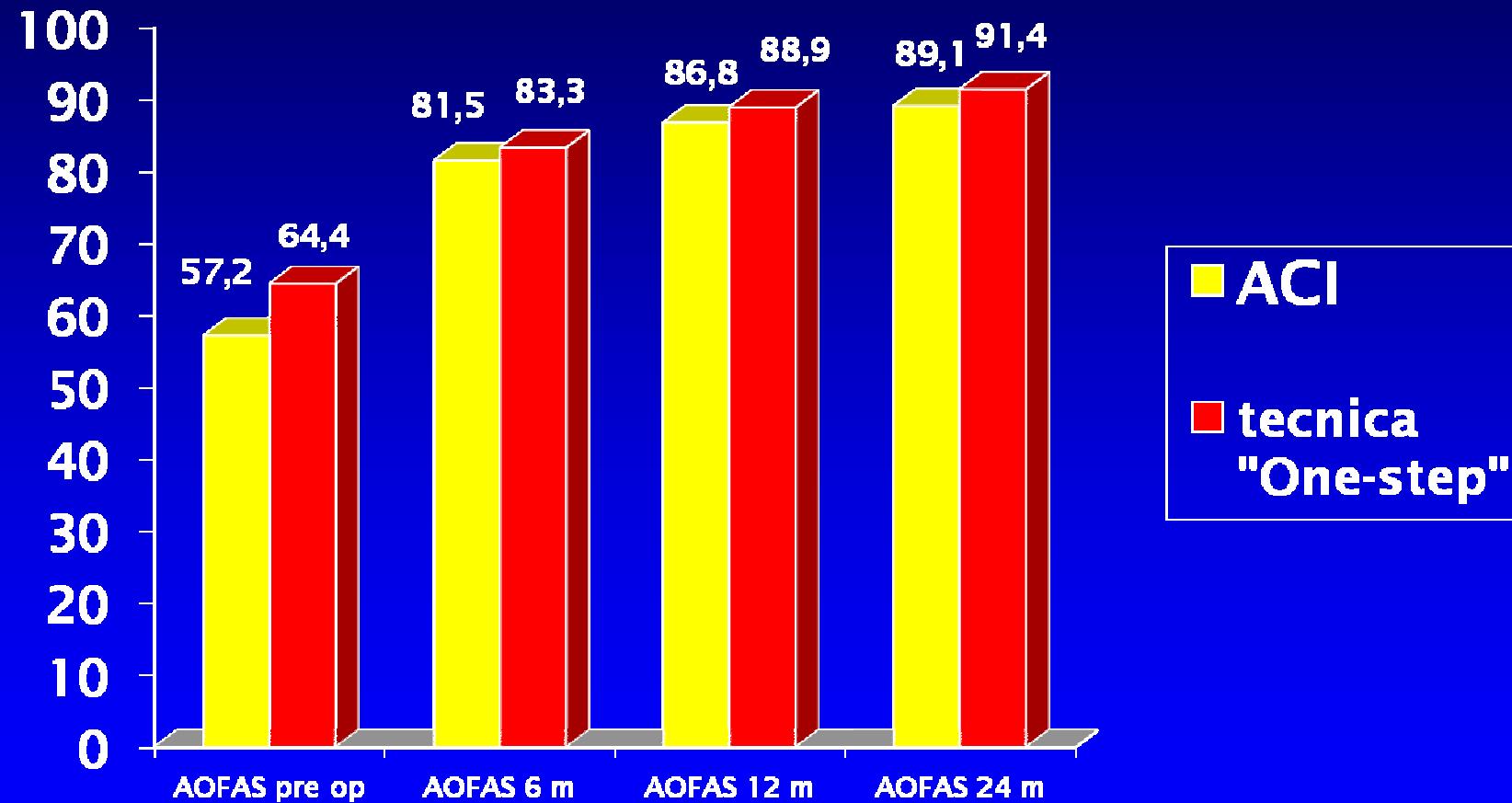


#### 4) Arthroscopic implant



# ACI vs "One step" procedure

*Similar trend of improvements*



93 patients with 6 months minimum FU (all cases 112)

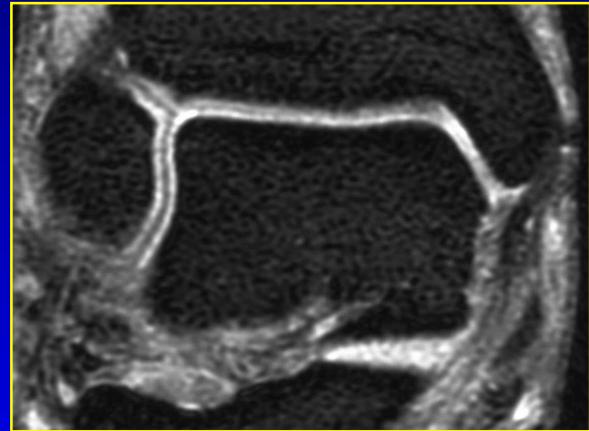
Buda R. JBJS 2010;  
Giannini S. Injury 2010

# FU evaluation in "One step" MRI T2 mapping

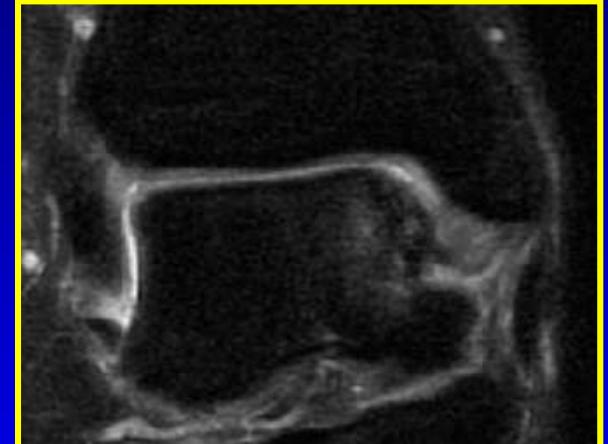


Multiecho sequence to evaluate the presence of water in cartilage according to colour scale

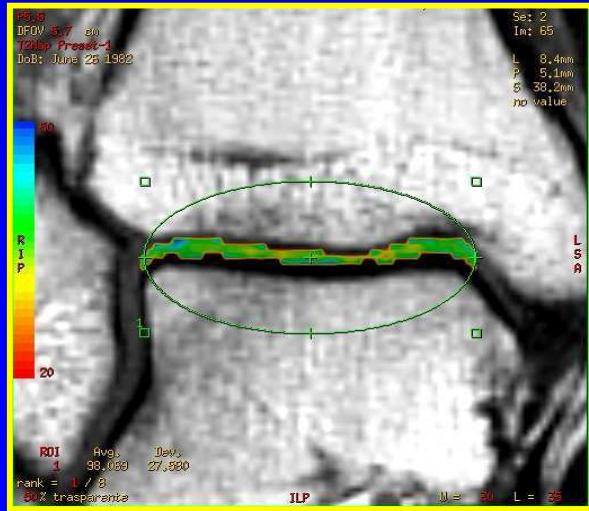
normal  
cartilage  
(3D SPGR)



ONE-STEP,  
18 Months FU



T2-mapping:  
45 msec  
mean



HighT2 (45  
msec) areas  
hyline  
cartilage  
expression



# Histology

Safranin O staining

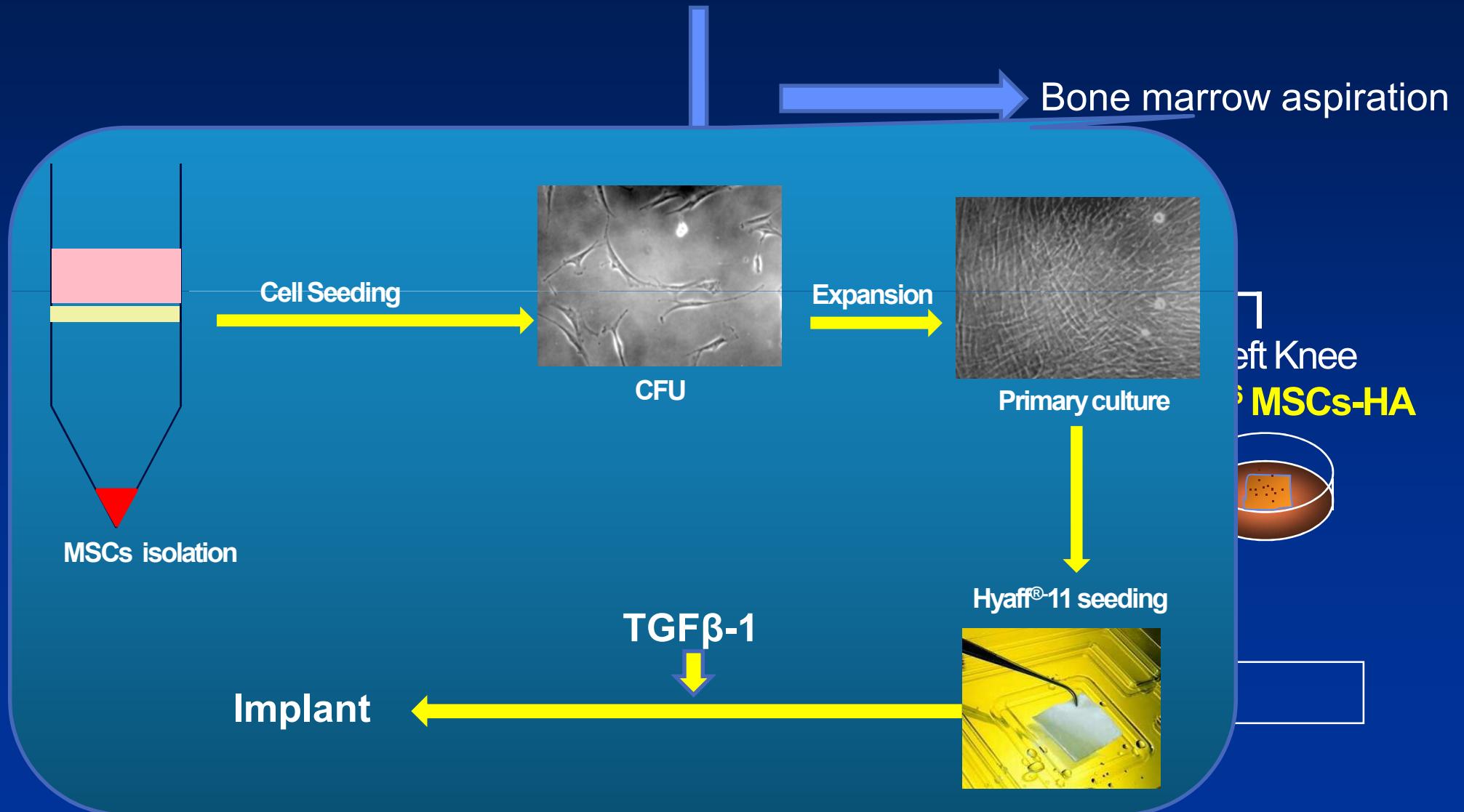
Hyaline like cartilage in remodelling  
High proteoglycan expression (red)  
Low evidence of Col I  
Good osteochondral integration



**Can MSC treatment be useful in  
osteoarthritis ?**

# EXPERIMENTAL MODEL

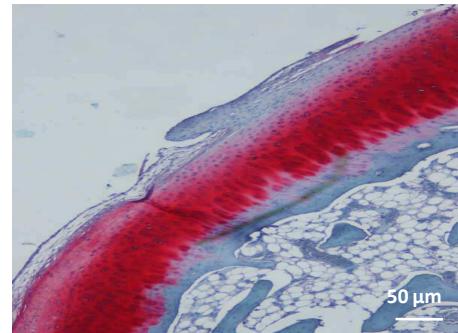
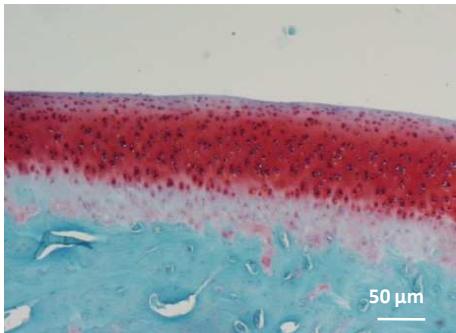
## Bilateral ACLT



# Experimental rabbit model

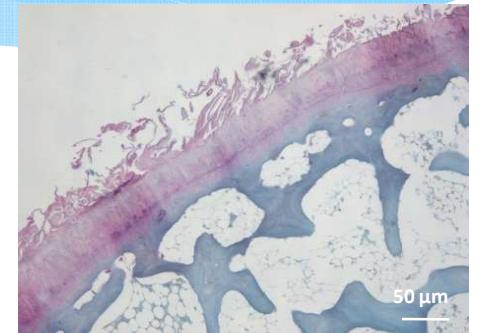
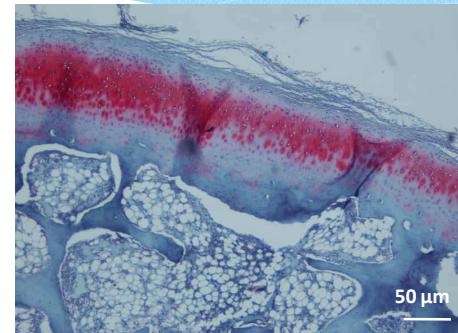
ANTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT  
TRANSECTION (ACLT)

SHAM



New Zealand male  
adult rabbits

HYCR  
specific pathogen free

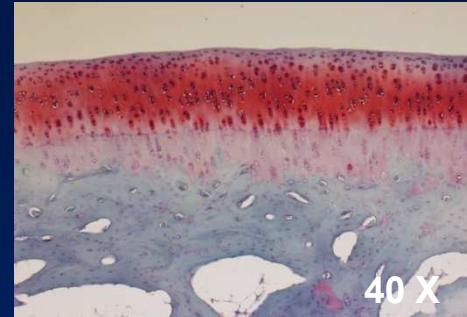


(Grigolo B. et al. Tissue Engineering, 2009)

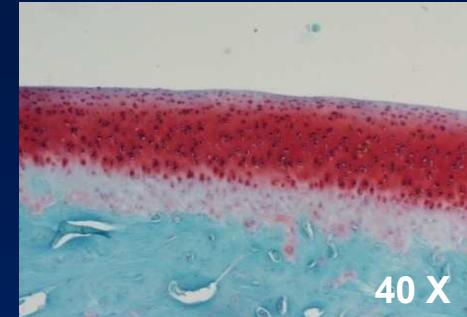
# Safranin-O

Sham operation group  
(Control)

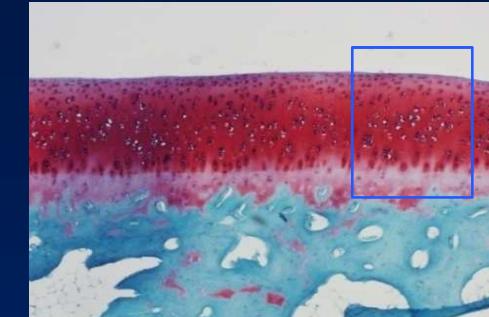
8 weeks



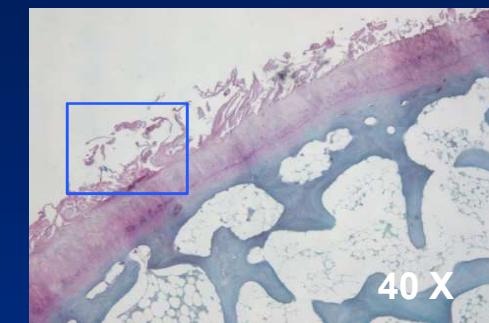
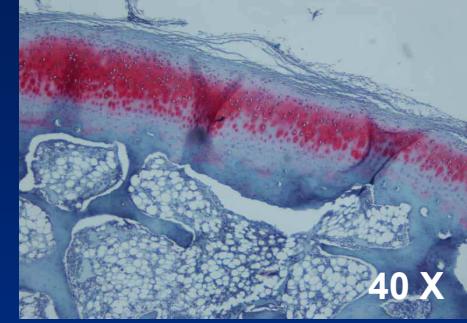
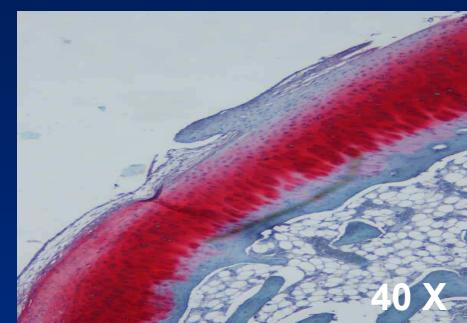
3 months



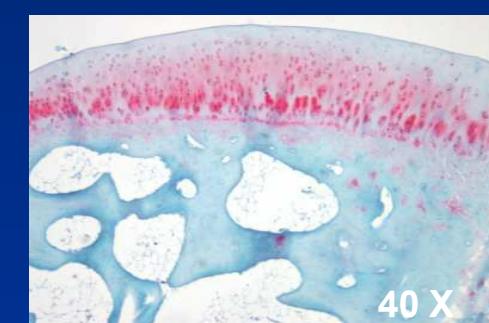
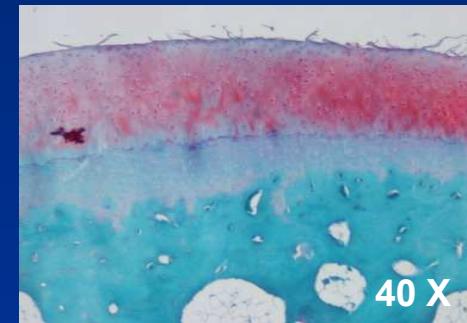
6 months



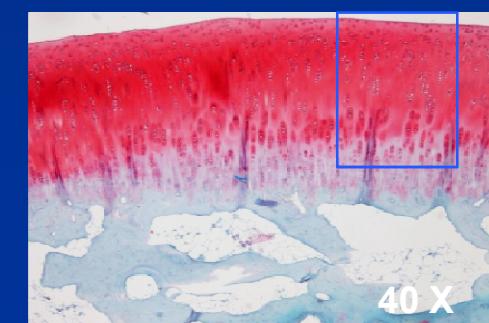
ACLT (OA) group



HA treated group

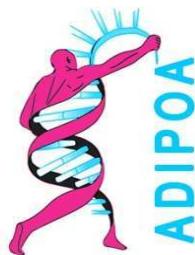


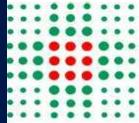
MSCs-HA treated group



# Adipose derived stromal cells for osteoarthritis treatment (ADIPOA)

**Collaborative Project Health-2009-1.4-3 Grant 241719**  
**Open multi dose Phase I Clinical trial / Phase I-II**  
**for therapeutic effect of intraarticular ASC in human OA**





## Adipose Stem Cells (ASC)

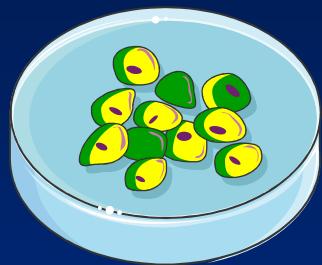
1. ASC can be easily isolated by liposuction aspiration (less painful than BM aspiration)
2. ASC concentration in adipose tissue is 500 folds of that found in BM (approx. 300.000 ASC /g)
3. ASC can be expanded 7 times more than BMSC.
4. ASC present similar differentiation capacity, anti-fibrotic, anti apoptotic and anti-inflammatory features of BMSC.

# ASC isolation

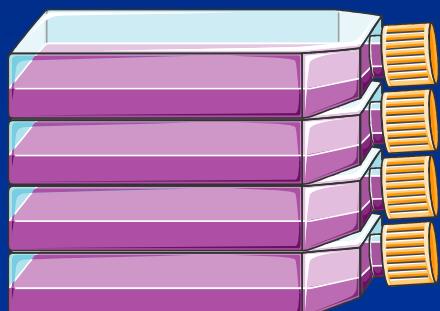
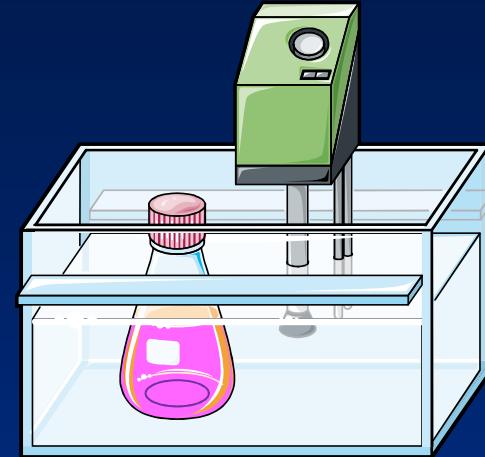


Adipose tissue

Fragmentation

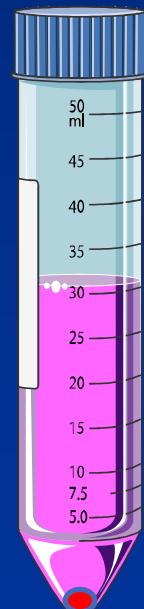


Enzymatic treatment



ASC

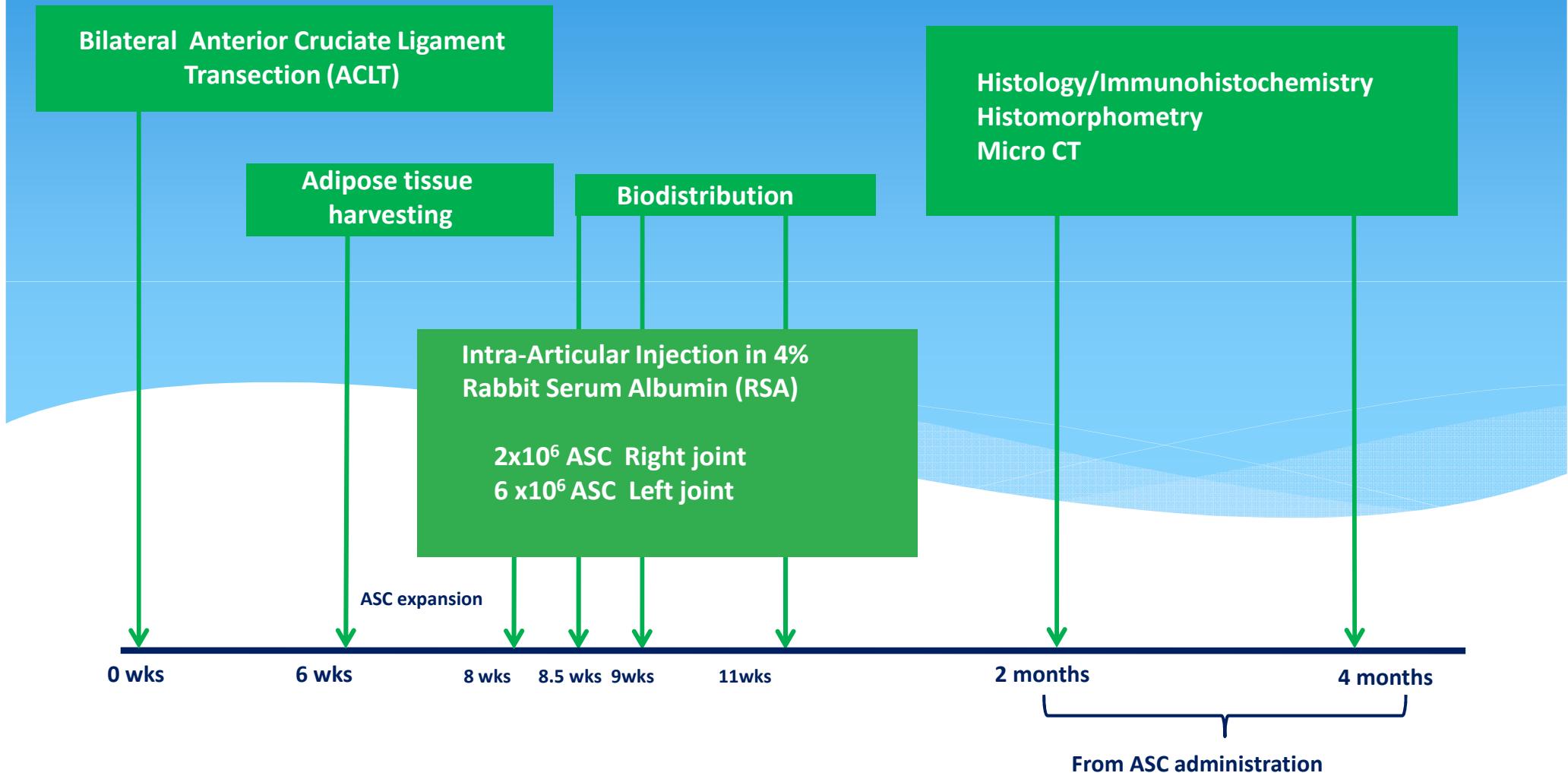
Pellet seeding



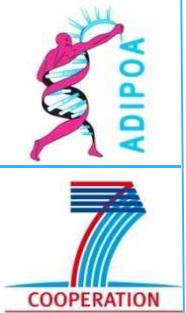
Centrifugation



# Timeline table for rabbit OA model



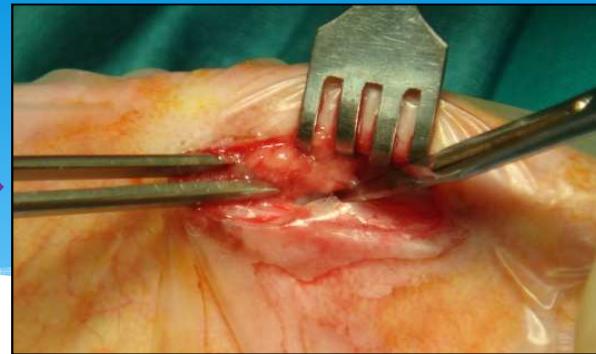
## WP2 PRECLINICAL DEVELOPMENT IN RABBIT MODEL



- \* To assess safety and bio-distribution of ASCs intra-articular injections in an experimental osteoarthritis rabbit model at two different experimental times: 2 and 4 months follow-up.
- \* To determine the most effective dose by injecting two different ASC concentrations ( $2.0 \times 10^6$  and  $6.0 \times 10^6$ ) in rabbit knee joints. To test capacity of cells to form ectopic cartilage



Skeletally mature male New Zealand (12 months old)

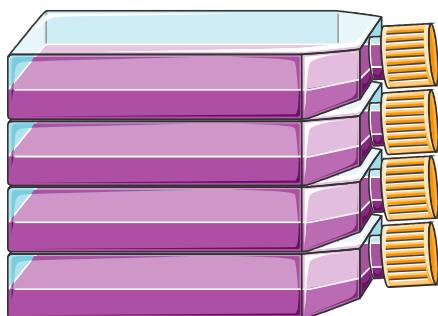


Bilateral Anterior Cruciate Ligament Transection (ACLT)



Adipose tissue harvesting

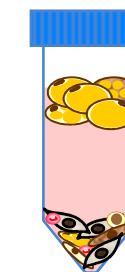
## ASC isolation



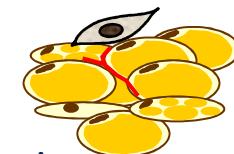
2 weeks  
expansion



Culture with Plastic Adhesion



30 min  
 $37^{\circ}\text{C}$



Enzymatic Digestion



Intra-articular injection



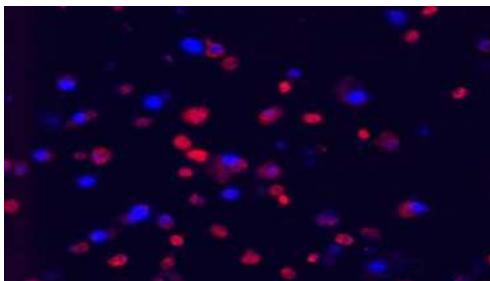
# LOCAL BIODISTRIBUTION OF RABBIT ASC

Rabbit ASC were labelled with CM Dil and injected i.a.

CM Dil: is a lipophilic carbocyanine which reacts with proteins and molecules containing thiolic groups.

Emission spectrum: 570 nm

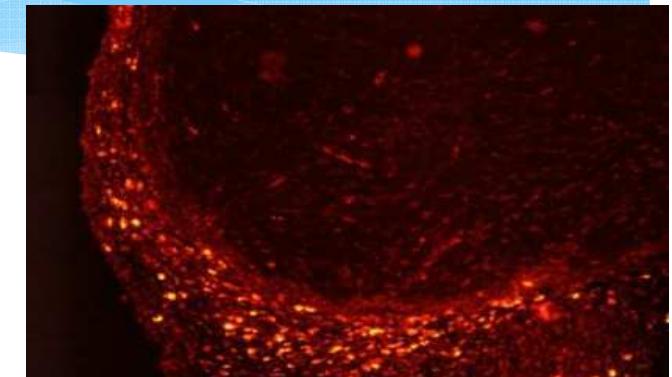
In vitro



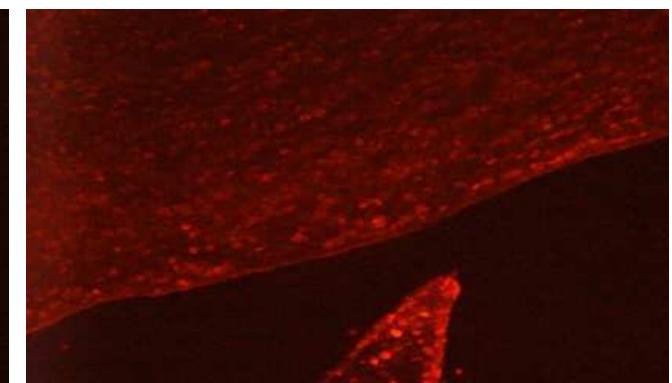
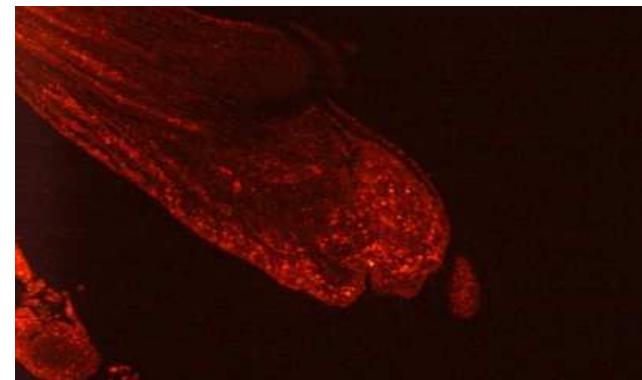
6  $\mu$ M

synovium

In vivo



Medial meniscus



Incubation time = 7 days after an injection of  $6.10^6$  ASC

F.up = 8 weeks



OA

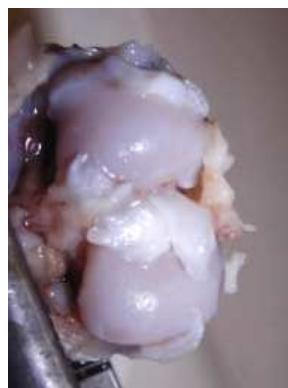
F.up = 4 months



F.up = 2 months



4 % RSA



$2 \times 10^6$  ASC



$6 \times 10^6$  ASC



## Macroscopic analyses

# Laverty's score (0-24)

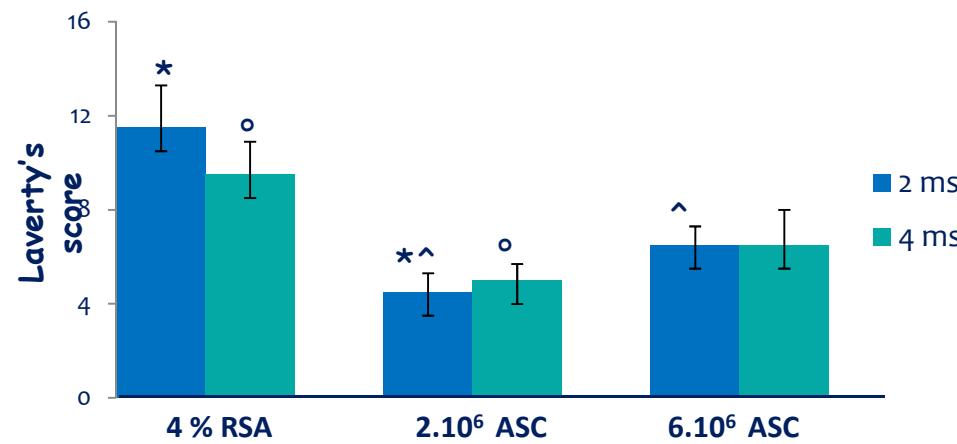
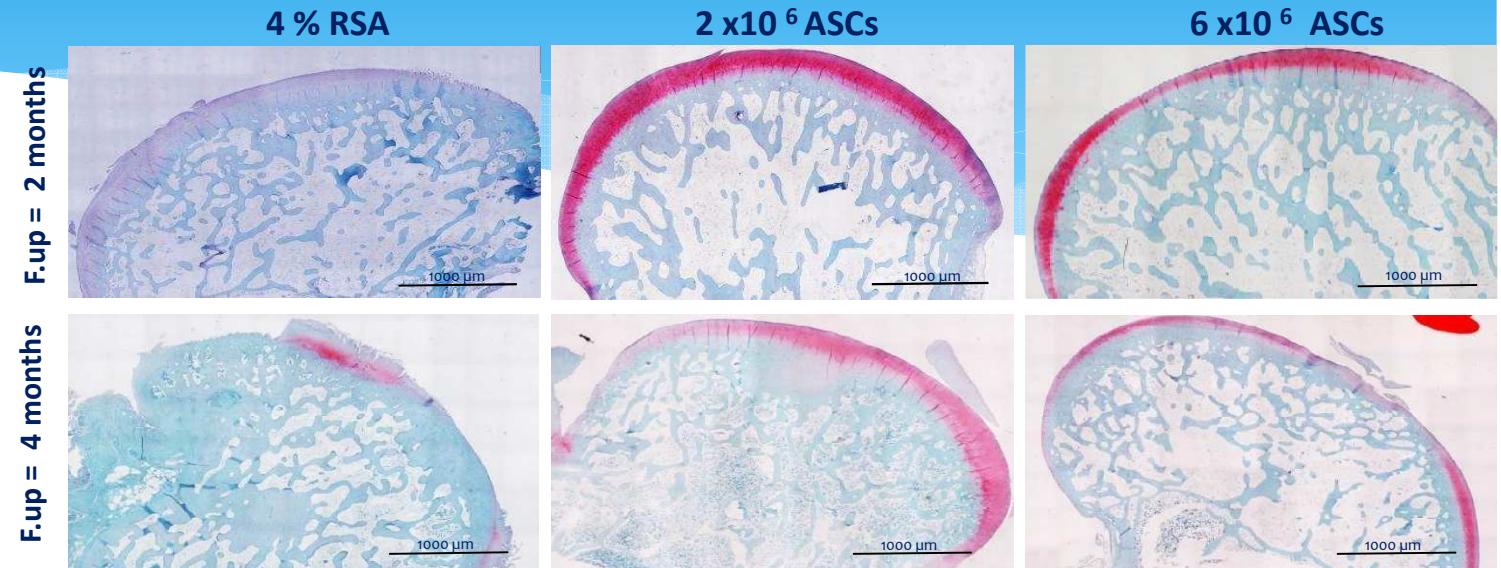
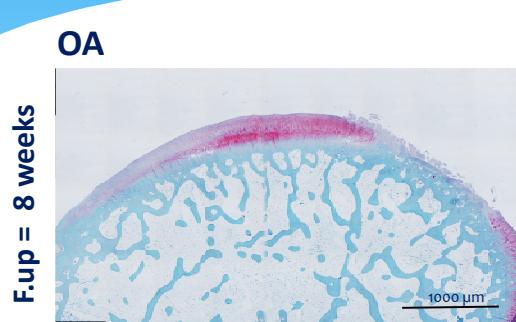
(Laverty S et al. Osteoarthritis & Cartilage, 2010)

I. Safranin-O/Fast Green staining	0-6
II. Structure	0-11
III. Chondrocyte density	0-4
IV. Cluster formation	0-3

Where

0 is normal healthy cartilage  
24 severe cartilage lesions

## Histological evaluation: Safranin-O/Fast Green staining

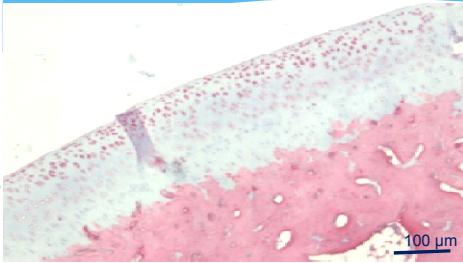


# Immunohistochemical evaluations

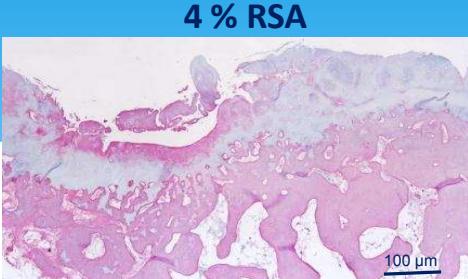
## Collagen Type I

F.up = 8 weeks

OA



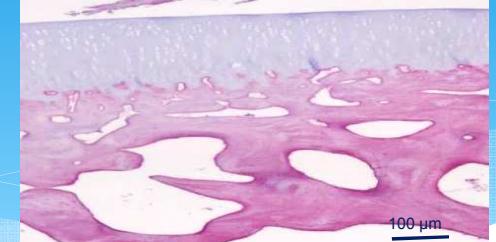
F.up 2 months



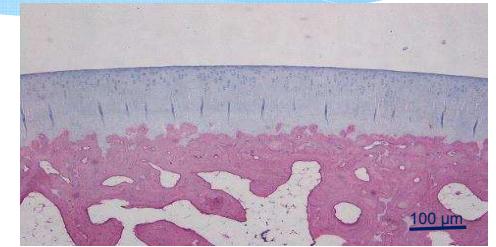
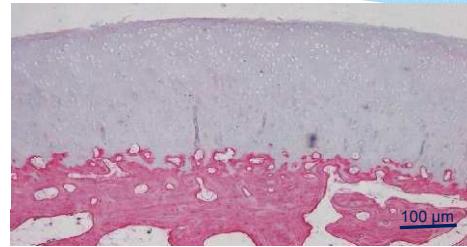
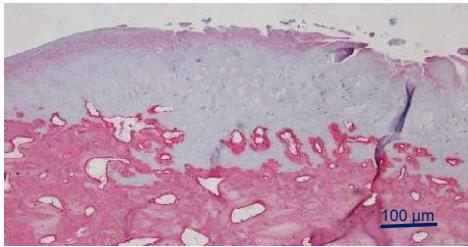
$2 \times 10^6$  ASCs



$6 \times 10^6$  ASCs



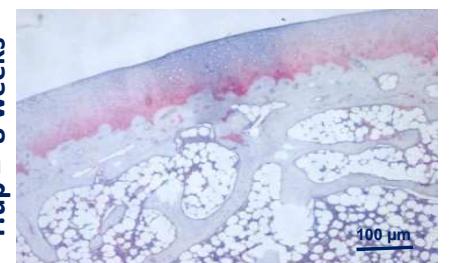
F.up 4 months



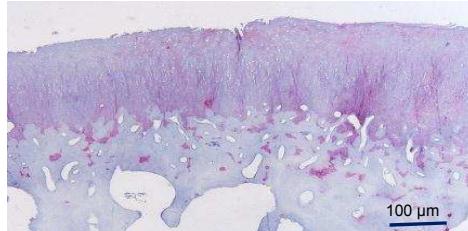
## Collagen Type II

F.up = 8 weeks

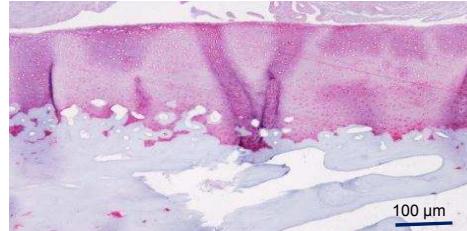
OA



F.up 2 months



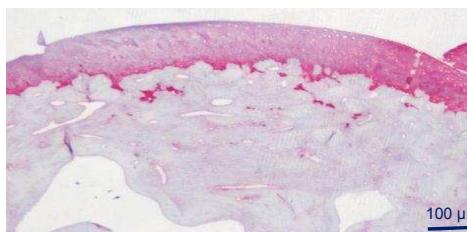
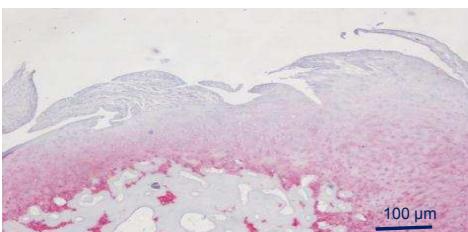
$2 \times 10^6$  ASCs



$6 \times 10^6$  ASCs



F.up 4 months

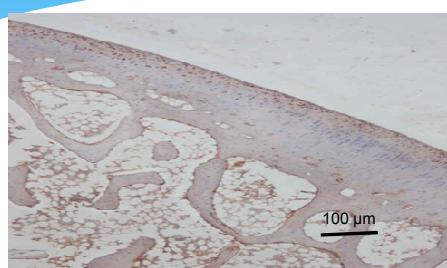


# Immunohistochemical evaluations

## MMP-1

F.up 8 weeks

OA



F.up 2 months

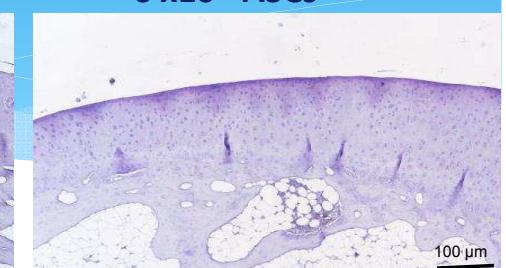
4 % RSA



$2 \times 10^6$  ASCs



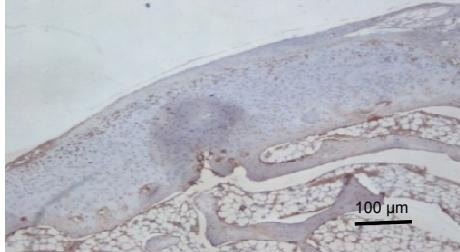
$6 \times 10^6$  ASCs



## MMP-3

F.up 8 weeks

OA



F.up 2 months

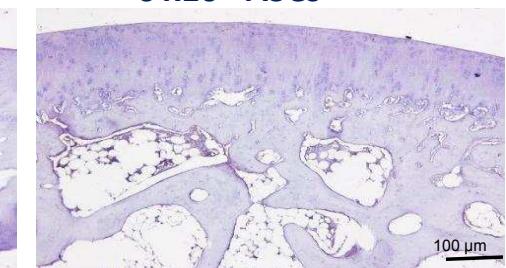
4 % RSA



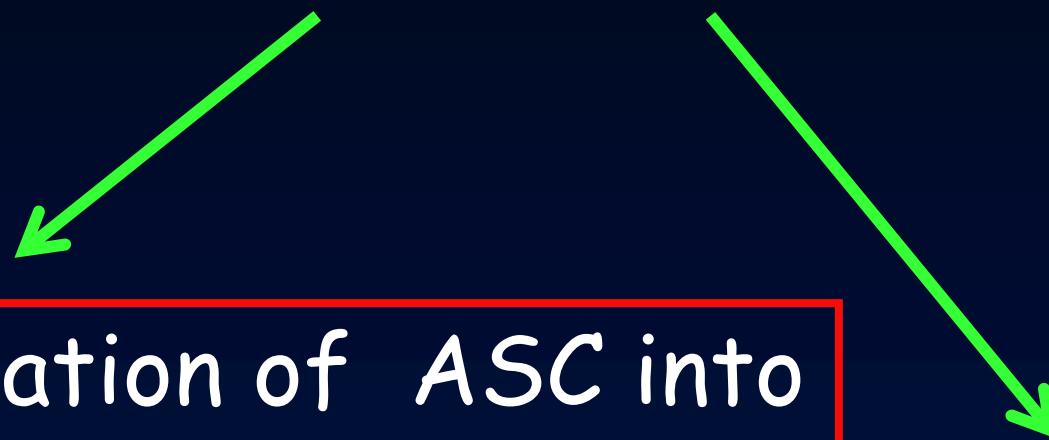
$2 \times 10^6$  ASCs



$6 \times 10^6$  ASCs



Which mechanisms are involved in tissue regeneration by ASC?



Differentiation of ASC into cartilage

Effects of trophic factors (paracrine)

# Effects of MSC-released trophic factors

Adipose derived stromal cells (ASC) secrete molecules that can modulate the release of:

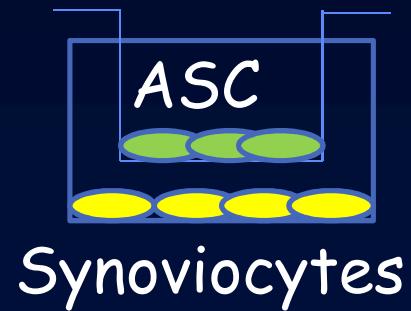
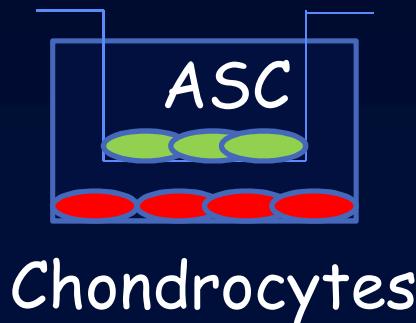
Inflammatory factors from OA chondrocytes and synoviocytes

Anti - fibrotic and anti- hypertrophic factors on chondrocytes

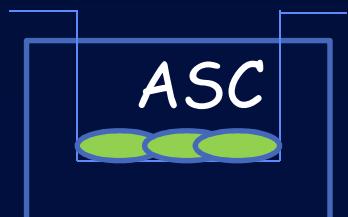
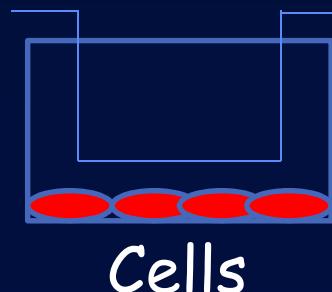
# Experimental plan

- Isolation of OA chondrocytes and synoviocytes ( $n=10$ ),
- Isolation of GMP-clinical grade ASC ( $n=5$ ).

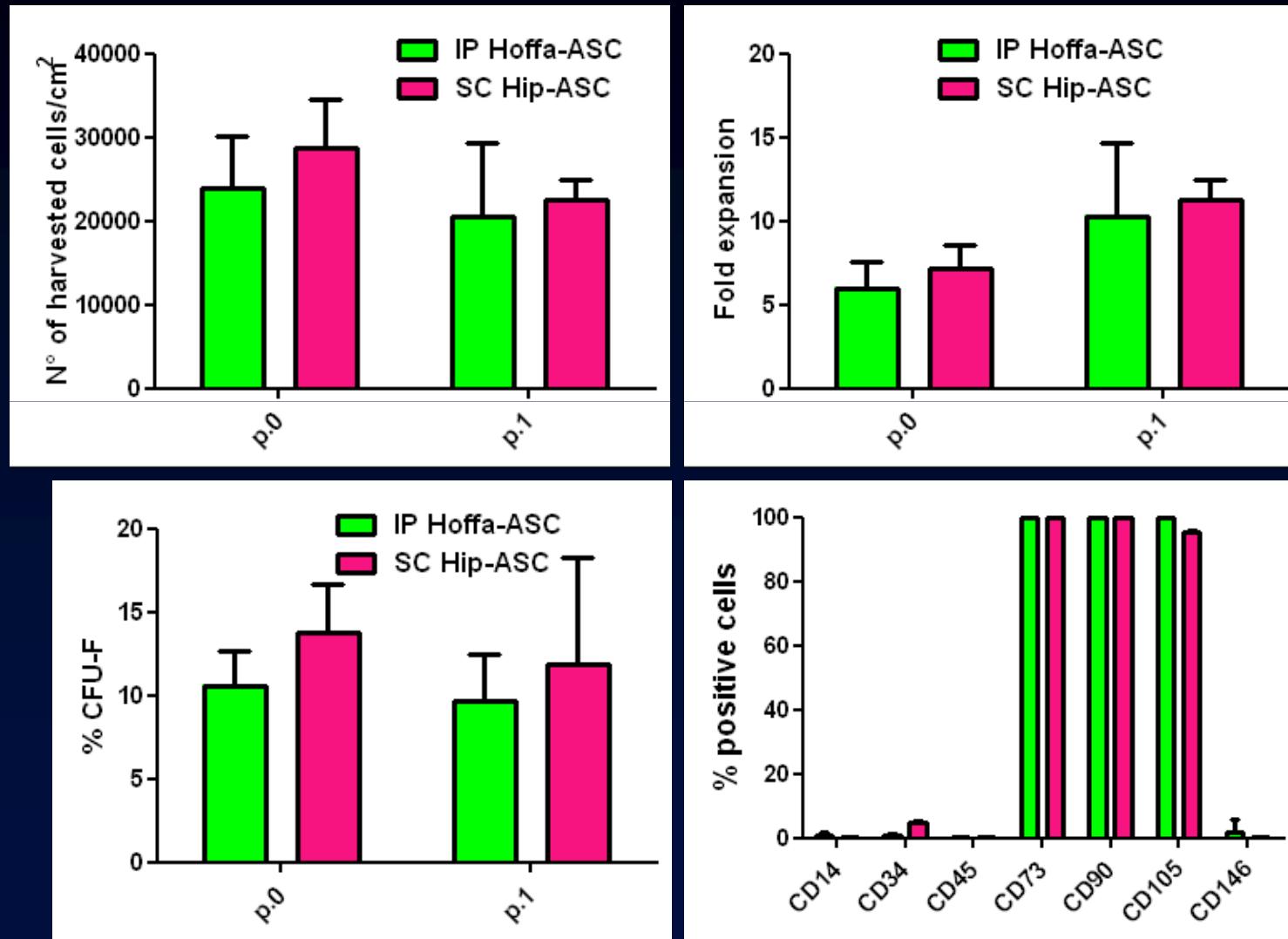
## Co-Culture



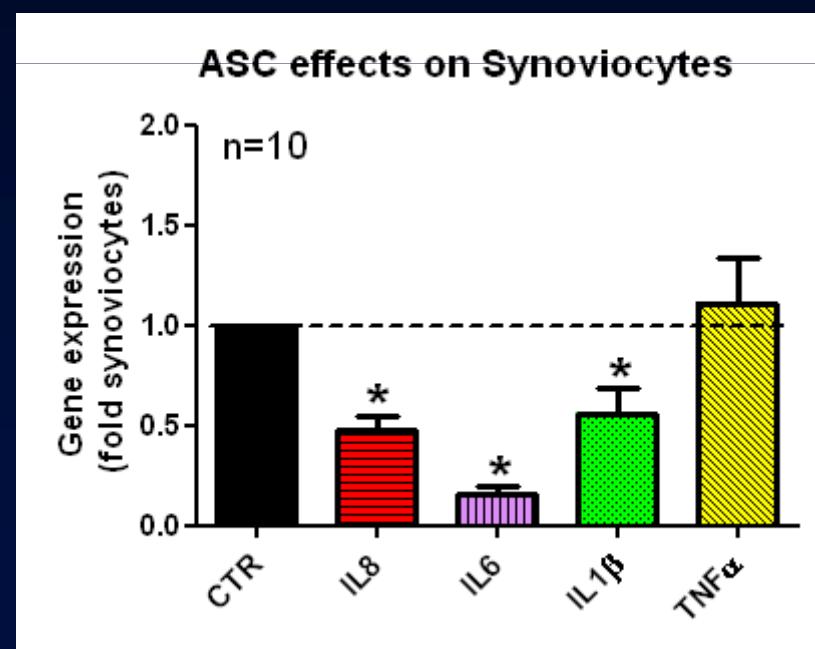
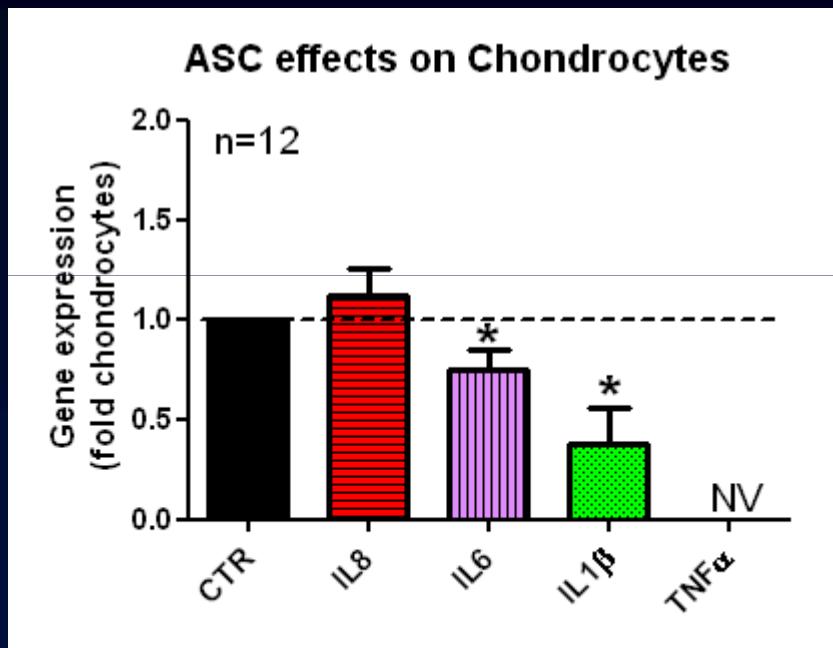
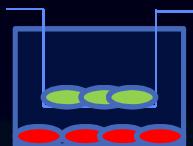
## Control cells alone



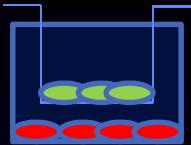
# GMP-clinical grade ASC characterization



# ASC in co-culture with chondrocytes or synoviocytes down-modulate the expression of major OA inflammatory factors

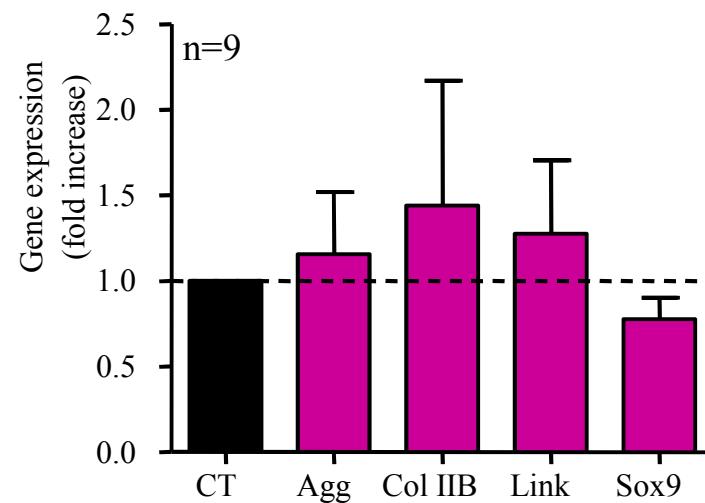
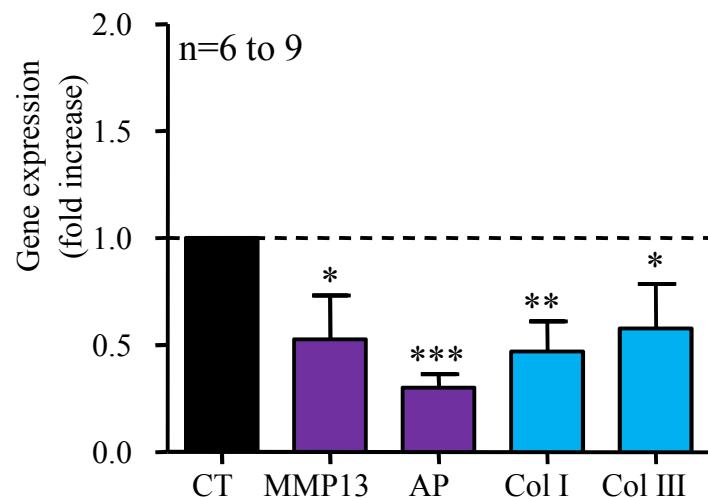


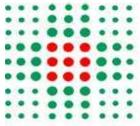
Lisignoli et al. OARSI meeting 2011



# ASC co-culture inhibit fibrogenic and hypertrophic factors

Chondrocytes / ASC





SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE

EMILIA - ROMAGNA

Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli di Bologna

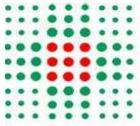
Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico



Dipartimento  
IZZOLI  
Research  
Innovation  
**R** Technology



# Are GMP grade ASCs a safe product ?



## Conclusions

- No clonal alteration in karyotype analysis
- Progressive decrease of proliferation rates
- Low degree of random fluctuation in telomere dynamics
- Negligible telomerase activity
- No anchorage-independent colony formation
- Microsatellite stability and maintained allele patterns



Safe product

# Grants from:





Dr.Brunella Grigolo

Dr.ssa Giovanna Desando

Dr.ssa Carola Cavallo

Dr.ssa Federica Sartoni

Immunorheumatology and Tissue Regeneration Laboratory, IOR; Bologna

Prof. Roberto Giardino

Dr.ssa Anna Paola Parrilli

Dr.ssa Francesca Veronesi

Dr.ssa Lucia Martini

Preclinical and Surgical Studies Laboratory, IOR; Bologna

(Chief: Dr.ssa Milena Fini)

Dr.ssa Roxane Blattes

Dr Yannick Jeaanson

Univ.of Toulouse

Prof. Christian Jorgensen

Dr. Danielle Nolel

Univ.of Montpellier

Thank you