

Supplementary Information

Table S1. The percentage of CD4⁺/TIMP-1⁺ and CD8⁺/TIMP-1⁺ cells in spleens after osteoarthritis (OA) induction.

Cells	CD4 ⁺ /TIMP-1 ⁺		CD8 ⁺ /TIMP-1 ⁺	
Group	Sham	ACLT	Sham	ACLT
Day 30	24.93 (21.45–28.41)	22.65 (20.98–24.32)	12.57 (11.27–13.87)	15.07 (13.54–16.60) ^a
Day 90	16.82 (13.11–20.53)	15.14 (11.05–19.23)	8.30 (5.82–10.78)	21.82 (16.06–27.58) ^b

Sham, the mice were not subjected to anterior cruciate ligament-transection (ACLT); ACLT, the mice were subjected to ACLT to induce OA; Data are means ± 95% confidence intervals and analyzed using Student's *t*-test; Significance was set at *p* < 0.05; ^a *p* < 0.01 compared to the Sham group; ^b *p* < 0.001 compared to the Sham group.

Figure S1. Spleens from the Sham and ACLT groups on day 30, 60 and 90 were removed. Serial sections were stained with antibodies against CD8⁺ and TIMP-1. The section showed from upper and lower panels were from the same section. Only the Sham group on day 90 was shown. In the ACLT group mice, increased TIMP-1-expressing CD8⁺ T cells were seen in spleens compared to those in the Sham group 90 days post-surgery (200× magnification; scale bar = 50 μm). The CD8- and TIMP-1-double positive cells were indicated with white insets. The TIMP-1 single positive cells were indicated with red insets. The highest number of double-positive cells was found in the spleens of mice 90 days after surgery. The number decreased progressively in those of mice on day 60, and day 30 at sacrifice.

