



Cell and Gene Therapy for Cardiac Repair

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Message from the Guest Editor

Ischemic heart disease (IHD) and end-stage heart failure are major causes of morbidity and mortality. Although treatment for acute myocardial infarction has improved over the past decades, including early reperfusion of occluded coronary arteries, novel therapeutic strategies are required to preserve cardiac function and improve clinical outcomes in patients with IHD. Additionally, new therapies are needed for the increased burden of chronic stages of heart failure. Transplantation of stem/progenitor cells has been considered as an alternative treatment for heart repair in both the acute and chronic phases of the disease. Although several issues have been raised from recent findings that stem cell therapy does not—or not yet in its current form—lead to muscle regeneration, some benefits have been observed. In fact, after the modest successes of the early clinical trials, research is now exploring the benefits of enhanced cell-based therapy and therapies with cell products. This Special Issue will highlight recent advances in the context of cell therapy for cardiovascular disease.





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