



Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cells in Immunity and Disease—Series II

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Message from the Guest Editor

Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) are increasingly used for different clinical applications. MSCs are nonhematopoietic cells that display a fibroblastic-like shape in vitro. As a major component of the stromal niche, they can be found and isolated from several tissues. MSCs harbor a specific phenotype and a capacity to differentiate into other cell lineage depending on their in vivo or in vitro environment. Thus, their therapeutic function is likely a combination of both trophic and immunomodulatory activities rather than their multilineage potential. MSCs are sensitive to their environment and show plasticity in their fate, allowing to respond accordingly. These cells harbor different receptors that allow sensing the surroundings (inflammation, pathogen, injury, damage). These effects are also linked to their secretome that includes several growth factors, cytokines, and genetic materials. All these elements might be packaged in extracellular vesicles (EVs) derived from the cells and that mimic the same effect. As an immuno-trophic cellular product, MSCs are increasingly indicated for both regenerative and immunotherapeutic applications.





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