

Abstract Submission No.: A-0987

Comprehensive Characterization of MSCs-derived Extracellular Vesicles Using Different Culture Media: FBS versus HPL

Yue Zhang¹, Tao-tao Tang¹, Lin-li Lv¹, Bi-cheng Liu²

¹Department of Internal Medicine-Nephrology, Southeast university, China

²Department of Nephrology, Zhongda Hospital Southeast University, China

Objectives : Mesenchymal stem cell-derived extracellular vesicles (MSC-EVs) have emerged as a promising regenerative therapy. However, the clinical application of MSC-EVs is hindered by the presence of xenogeneic components in fetal bovine serum (FBS), which is commonly used as a culture medium for MSCs. The suitability of platelet lysate (HPL) as an alternative to FBS for culturing MSCs and obtaining EVs for clinical translation remains unclear.

Methods : In this study, we systematically compared the effects of FBS and HPL culture mediums on MSC-EVs using various EV characterization techniques, multi-omics sequencing, and functional validation.

Results : Our findings demonstrated that MSCs cultured under HPL exhibited higher cellular activity and EV production compared to those cultured under FBS conditions. However, the key quality attributes of MSC-EVs showed no significant differences between FBS and HPL culture conditions. Multi-omics analysis revealed that H-EVs derived from various umbilical cord donors exhibited greater stability. Multi-omics sequencing identified differential enrichment of proteins, nucleic acids, and metabolites due to different culture conditions. Notably, upregulated components in H-EVs demonstrated greater regenerative potential, while upregulated components in F-EVs were more prone to eliciting immune responses. Additionally, miRNAs and mRNAs associated with angiogenesis were significantly upregulated in H-EVs, inducing the formation and migration of tube-like structures in human umbilical vein endothelial cells (hucVECs). In vitro and in vivo disease models further demonstrated that compared to F-EVs, H-EVs significantly reduced renal capillary rarefaction in a mouse model of renal ischemia-reperfusion injury and promote the regeneration of hypoxic hucVECs.

Conclusions : In conclusion, our study highlights the differences in EV production, properties, composition, and function under different culture conditions. Building upon previous research on F-EV-based therapeutic studies, our findings suggest the potential of using xenogeneic H-EVs as a safe and effective regenerative therapy.

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