

# World Journal of *Gastroenterology*

*World J Gastroenterol* 2018 June 21; 24(23): 2413-2536





### REVIEW

- 2413 Recent advances in non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging assessment of hepatocellular carcinoma  
*Ippolito D, Inchingolo R, Grazioli L, Drago SG, Nardella M, Gatti M, Faletti R*
- 2427 Taking advantage of the potential of mesenchymal stromal cells in liver regeneration: Cells and extracellular vesicles as therapeutic strategies  
*Fiore EJ, Domínguez LM, Bayo J, García MG, Mazzolini GD*
- 2441 Feasibility of using marginal liver grafts in living donor liver transplantation  
*Lan X, Zhang H, Li HY, Chen KF, Liu F, Wei YG, Li B*

### MINIREVIEWS

- 2457 Vedolizumab for inflammatory bowel disease: From randomized controlled trials to real-life evidence  
*Scribano ML*

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Basic Study

- 2468 Dynamic alterations in the gut microbiota and metabolome during the development of methionine-choline-deficient diet-induced nonalcoholic steatohepatitis  
*Ye JZ, Li YT, Wu WR, Shi D, Fang DQ, Yang LY, Bian XY, Wu JJ, Wang Q, Jiang XW, Peng CG, Ye WC, Xia PC, Li LJ*

#### Case Control Study

- 2482 Association of twelve polymorphisms in three onco-lncRNA genes with hepatocellular cancer risk and prognosis: A case-control study  
*Wang BG, Xu Q, Lv Z, Fang XX, Ding HX, Wen J, Yuan Y*

#### Retrospective Cohort Study

- 2491 Subtotal colonic bypass plus colostomy with antiperistaltic cecoproctostomy for the treatment of slow transit constipation in an aged population: A retrospective control study  
*Yang Y, Cao YL, Wang WH, Zhang YY, Zhao N, Wei D*

#### Retrospective Study

- 2501 Transarterial embolization and low-dose continuous hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy with oxaliplatin and raltitrexed for hepatocellular carcinoma with major portal vein tumor thrombus  
*Zhu LZ, Xu S, Qian HL*

#### Clinical Trials Study

- 2508 Clinical and prognostic significance of Raf kinase inhibitory protein expression in gastrointestinal stromal tumors  
*Wang Y, Chen JJ, Wang XF, Wang Q*

### META-ANALYSIS

- 2518 Comparing outcomes for endoscopic submucosal dissection between Eastern and Western countries: A systematic review and meta-analysis  
*Daoud DC, Suter N, Durand M, Bouin M, Faulques B, von Renteln D*

## ABOUT COVER

Editorial board member of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, Tatsuo Kanda, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Nihon University School of Medicine, Tokyo 173-8610, Japan

## AIMS AND SCOPE

*World Journal of Gastroenterology* (*World J Gastroenterol*, *WJG*, print ISSN 1007-9327, online ISSN 2219-2840, DOI: 10.3748) is a peer-reviewed open access journal. *WJG* was established on October 1, 1995. It is published weekly on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> each month. The *WJG* Editorial Board consists of 642 experts in gastroenterology and hepatology from 59 countries.

The primary task of *WJG* is to rapidly publish high-quality original articles, reviews, and commentaries in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, gastrointestinal endoscopy, gastrointestinal surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, gastrointestinal oncology, gastrointestinal radiation oncology, gastrointestinal imaging, gastrointestinal interventional therapy, gastrointestinal infectious diseases, gastrointestinal pharmacology, gastrointestinal pathophysiology, gastrointestinal pathology, evidence-based medicine in gastroenterology, pancreatology, gastrointestinal laboratory medicine, gastrointestinal molecular biology, gastrointestinal immunology, gastrointestinal microbiology, gastrointestinal genetics, gastrointestinal translational medicine, gastrointestinal diagnostics, and gastrointestinal therapeutics. *WJG* is dedicated to become an influential and prestigious journal in gastroenterology and hepatology, to promote the development of above disciplines, and to improve the diagnostic and therapeutic skill and expertise of clinicians.

## INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

*World Journal of Gastroenterology* (*WJG*) is now indexed in Current Contents<sup>®</sup>/Clinical Medicine, Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch<sup>®</sup>), Journal Citation Reports<sup>®</sup>, Index Medicus, MEDLINE, PubMed, PubMed Central and Directory of Open Access Journals. The 2017 edition of Journal Citation Reports<sup>®</sup> cites the 2016 impact factor for *WJG* as 3.365 (5-year impact factor: 3.176), ranking *WJG* as 29<sup>th</sup> among 79 journals in gastroenterology and hepatology (quartile in category Q2).

## EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Responsible Assistant Editor: *Xiang Li*  
Responsible Electronic Editor: *Yan Huang*  
Proofing Editor-in-Chief: *Lian-Sheng Ma*

Responsible Science Editor: *Xue-Jiao Wang*  
Proofing Editorial Office Director: *Ze-Mao Gong*

NAME OF JOURNAL  
*World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ISSN  
ISSN 1007-9327 (print)  
ISSN 2219-2840 (online)

LAUNCH DATE  
October 1, 1995

FREQUENCY  
Weekly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF  
**Damian Garcia-Olmo, MD, PhD, Doctor, Professor, Surgeon**, Department of Surgery, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid; Department of General Surgery, Fundacion Jimenez Diaz University Hospital, Madrid 28040, Spain

**Stephen C Strom, PhD, Professor**, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Division of Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 141-86, Sweden

**Andrzej S Tarnawski, MD, PhD, DSc (Med), Professor of Medicine, Chief Gastroenterology**, VA Long Beach Health Care System, University of California, Irvine, CA, 5901 E. Seventh Str., Long Beach,

CA 90822, United States

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS  
All editorial board members resources online at <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/editorialboard.htm>

EDITORIAL OFFICE  
**Ze-Mao Gong, Director**  
*World Journal of Gastroenterology*  
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc  
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501,  
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA  
Telephone: +1-925-2238242  
Fax: +1-925-2238243  
E-mail: [editorialoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:editorialoffice@wjgnet.com)  
Help Desk: <http://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

PUBLISHER  
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc  
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501,  
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA  
Telephone: +1-925-2238242  
Fax: +1-925-2238243  
E-mail: [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
Help Desk: <http://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

PUBLICATION DATE  
June 21, 2018

COPYRIGHT  
© 2018 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. Articles published by this Open-Access journal are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial License, which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non commercial and is otherwise in compliance with the license.

SPECIAL STATEMENT  
All articles published in journals owned by the Baishideng Publishing Group (BPG) represent the views and opinions of their authors, and not the views, opinions or policies of the BPG, except where otherwise explicitly indicated.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS  
Full instructions are available online at <http://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204>

ONLINE SUBMISSION  
<http://www.f6publishing.com>

## Taking advantage of the potential of mesenchymal stromal cells in liver regeneration: Cells and extracellular vesicles as therapeutic strategies

Esteban Juan Fiore, Luciana María Domínguez, Juan Bayo, Mariana Gabriela García, Guillermo Daniel Mazzolini

Esteban Juan Fiore, Luciana María Domínguez, Juan Bayo, Mariana Gabriela García, Guillermo Daniel Mazzolini, Laboratory of Gene Therapy, Instituto de Investigaciones en Medicina Traslacional, CONICET-Universidad Austral, Buenos Aires 999071, Argentina

ORCID number: Esteban Juan Fiore (0000-0003-1059-1695); Luciana María Domínguez (0000-0002-9949-5132); Juan Bayo (0000-0003-3999-0841); Mariana Gabriela García (0000-0001-8999-5347); Guillermo Daniel Mazzolini (0000-0002-1450-8441).

**Author contributions:** Fiore EJ collected the information, wrote manuscript and drawn the figures; Domínguez LM collected information and assembly the tables; Bayo J and García MG wrote and reviewed the manuscript critically; Mazzolini GD wrote, reviewed critically and final approval of manuscript; all authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** The authors indicate no potential conflicts of interest.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

**Manuscript source:** Invited manuscript

**Correspondence to:** Guillermo Daniel Mazzolini, MD, PhD, Professor, Laboratory of Gene Therapy, Instituto de Investigaciones en Medicina Traslacional, CONICET-Universidad Austral, Av. Pte. Perón 1500 (B1629AHJ) Derqui-Pilar, Buenos Aires 999071, Argentina. [gmazzoli@austral.edu.ar](mailto:gmazzoli@austral.edu.ar)  
Telephone: +54-230-4482618  
Fax: +54-230-4482618

Received: April 13, 2018

Peer-review started: April 13, 2018  
First decision: April 27, 2018  
Revised: May 8, 2018  
Accepted: June 2, 2018  
Article in press: June 2, 2018  
Published online: June 21, 2018

### Abstract

Cell-based therapies for acute and chronic liver diseases are under continuous progress. Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) are multipotent cells able to migrate selectively to damaged tissue and contribute to its healing and regeneration. The MSC pro-regenerative effect occurs due to their immunomodulatory capacity and their ability to produce factors that promote cell protection and survival. Likewise, it has been observed that part of their paracrine effect is mediated by MSC-derived extracellular vesicles (EVs). EVs contain proteins, lipids and nucleic acids (DNA, mRNA, miRNA, lncRNA) from the cell of origin, allowing for intercellular communication. Recently, different studies have demonstrated that MSC-derived EVs could reproduce, at least in part, the biological effects obtained by MSC-based therapies. Moreover, due to EVs' stability for long periods of time and easy isolation methods they have become a therapeutic option to MSCs treatments. This review summarizes the latest results achieved in clinical trials using MSCs as cell therapy for liver regeneration, the role of EVs in liver physiopathology and the potential of MSC-derived EVs as intercellular mediators and therapeutic tools in liver diseases.

**Key words:** Mesenchymal stem cells; Extracellular vesicles; Cirrhosis; Liver; Acute damage; Regeneration

© **The Author(s) 2018.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tip:** Cell-based therapies for acute and chronic liver diseases are very attractive strategies. In particular, mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) are multipotent cells able to induce protective and pro-regenerative effects in different liver diseases. The mechanism through which MSCs support tissue regeneration is *via* secretion of paracrine factors, and solid evidence supports that part of these effects is mediated by extracellular vesicles (EVs). Therefore, EVs have become an attractive option in the research for new treatments in liver diseases.

Fiore EJ, Domínguez LM, Bayo J, García MG, Mazzolini GD. Taking advantage of the potential of mesenchymal stromal cells in liver regeneration: Cells and extracellular vesicles as therapeutic strategies. *World J Gastroenterol* 2018; 24(23): 2427-2440 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v24/i23/2427.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v24.i23.2427>

## INTRODUCTION

A diverse set of toxic, metabolic, and inflammatory insults result in liver diseases and imply different degrees of inflammation, apoptosis, and necrosis of parenchymal cells<sup>[1-4]</sup>. For example, acute liver failure (ALF) is characterized by a massive and sudden death of hepatocytes that lead to abrupt hepatocellular and systemic dysfunction<sup>[3]</sup>. Similarly, in patients with chronic liver disease an important loss of viable parenchymal cells is observed<sup>[1,2,4]</sup>. Cirrhosis is caused by diverse chronic liver diseases, such as viral hepatitis and chronic alcoholism<sup>[1,2]</sup>. Moreover, increases in the prevalence of hypertriglyceridemia, obesity and diabetes in developed countries have resulted in an increase in the incidence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)<sup>[4,5]</sup>. This condition is characterized by a lipid accumulation in the liver that could lead to hepatocytes apoptosis and inflammation. Regardless the liver chronic disease origin, the apoptosis of hepatocytes results in extracellular matrix accumulation that will affect the liver histoarchitecture of liver and ultimately impair its function<sup>[4]</sup>. It is well known that mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) migrate toward injured organs where they can provide tissue protection and promote liver regeneration<sup>[6-8]</sup>. These properties make MSCs interesting tools to carry therapeutic genes in modern cellular-based therapeutic strategies<sup>[6]</sup>. It is accepted that the main mechanism through which MSCs support tissue regeneration is *via* secretion of paracrine factors<sup>[7,9]</sup>. However, solid evidence supports that part of these effects are mediated by extracellular vesicles (EVs)<sup>[10]</sup>. In this review, we first provide an update on clinical trials using MSCs in different liver diseases; second, the mechanisms involved in the therapeutic effects of MSCs; third, general EVs characteristics and

their role in liver diseases, and finally, the role of MSC-derived EVs as therapeutic tools for liver regeneration.

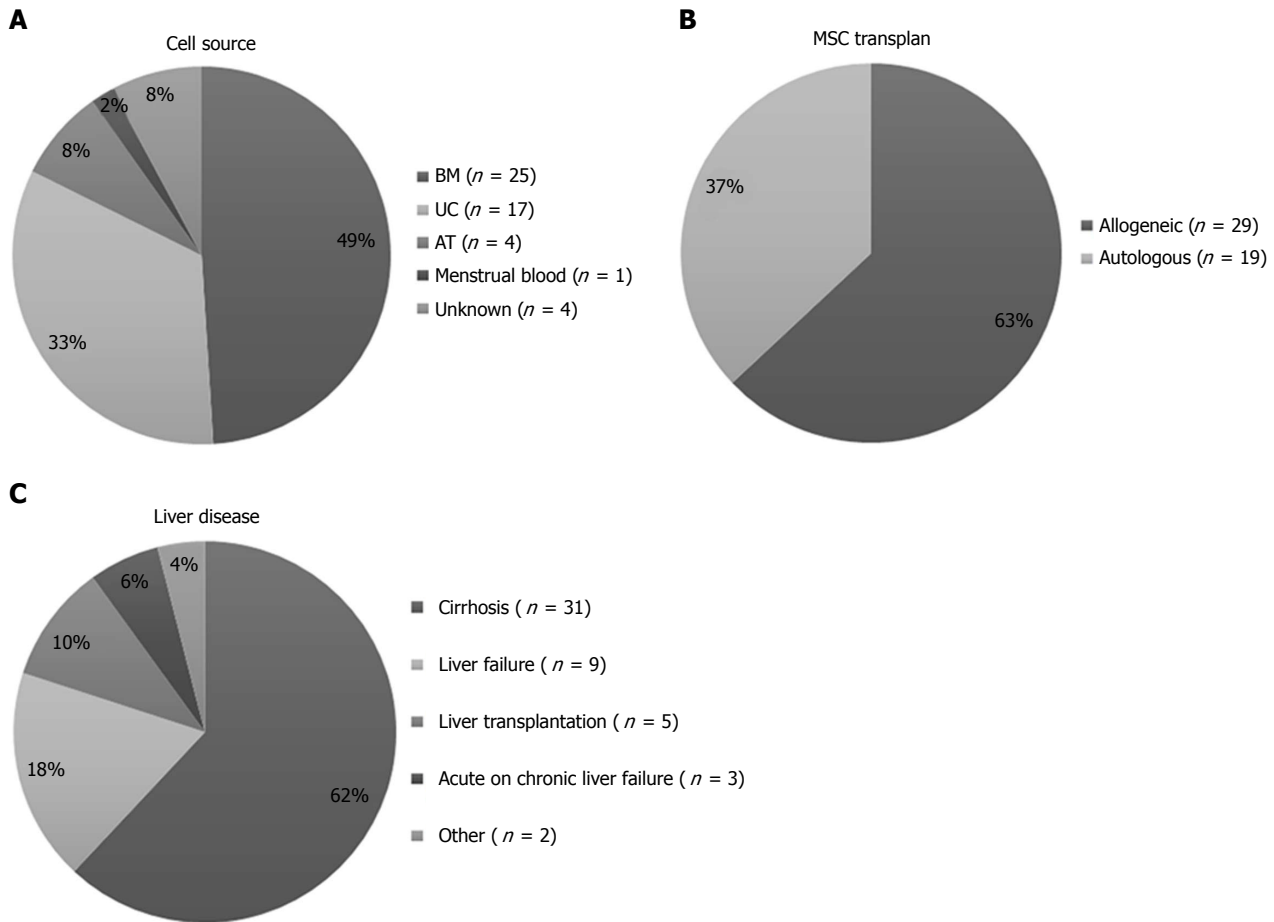
## CLINICAL TRIALS INVOLVING THE USE OF MSCS IN LIVER DISEASES

Clinical investigations using MSCs to treat a broad spectrum of degenerative diseases, including liver diseases, are increasing steadily in recent years<sup>[11,12]</sup>. The first clinical trial using MSCs was started in 2005 and 52 trials are registered up to now (ClinicalTrial.gov and reviewed by Tsuchiya 2017<sup>[13]</sup>). MSCs are obtained from bone marrow in most of the studies, but other sources such as umbilical cord, adipose tissue and menstrual blood has also been tested (Figure 1A). It should be noted that, allogeneic transplantation is more commonly used than autologous (Figure 1B). Between liver diseases, most of the trials are destined to the treatment of liver cirrhosis (Figure 1C) and only 2 of them are in phase II/III (ClinicalTrial.gov). Unfortunately, only 22 of 52 registered clinical trials have published their results (Table 1). It is important to mention that MSCs were administered after culture *in vitro* between passages 3 to 6. Regarding the administration route, MSC transplant was performed by peripheral vein<sup>[14-28]</sup>, hepatic artery<sup>[29-33]</sup>, portal vein<sup>[15,27]</sup> or directly into the spleen<sup>[16,34,35]</sup>. One study performed on 12 patients showed similar therapeutic effects when MSCs were injected into the spleen or intravenously<sup>[17]</sup>.

In general, MSC administration in patients with different liver pathologies proved to be feasible and safe (Table 1). Regarding their efficacy, studies demonstrated that MSCs exert positive effects on liver function by increase in serum levels of albumin and improving coagulation or decreasing bilirubin, alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and  $\gamma$ -glutamyltransferase ( $\gamma$ -GT)<sup>[17-19,21-24,26,29,31,33-35]</sup>. In addition, the MELD (Model for End-stage Liver Disease) and Child-Pugh scores were improved after MSC treatment<sup>[14-19,23,28-32,34]</sup> (Table 1). Furthermore, in some studies it was demonstrated that the application of MSCs not only improved patient's quality of life but also modulated the immune response of patients<sup>[22,26,31]</sup>. In this sense, a randomized clinical trial using autologous BM-derived MSCs in patients with hepatitis B virus-related liver cirrhosis resulted in an improvement of liver function, an increase in Treg cells, and a decrease in Th17 cells, serum levels of interleukin (IL)-17, tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and IL-6; in addition, tumor growth factor beta (TGF- $\beta$ ) levels were increased in comparison with control group<sup>[31]</sup>. Similar results were reported in a phase I/II clinical trial in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC) transplanted with allogeneic MSCs that showed a reduction in the number of CD8+ T-cells and an increment of Treg cells and IL-10 serum levels<sup>[22]</sup>.

Recently, Suk *et al*<sup>[32]</sup> reported a phase II clinical trial comparing the effects of one or two doses of autologous BM-derived MSC therapy with a control group in alco-





**Figure 1 Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells clinical trials in liver disease.** A: MSCs clinical trials classified by cell source; B: MSCs clinical trials classified by transplant type; C: MSCs clinical trials classified by liver disease treated. Data from <http://www.clinicaltrial.gov>. *n*: Number of clinical trials; MSCs: Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells; BM: Bone marrow; UC: Umbilical cord; AT: Adipose tissue.

holic patients. The authors observed that liver fibrosis quantification diminished after cell treatment, although no significant differences in fibrosis area were found between one and two doses. Importantly, no evidence of tumor formation was found during the follow-up in the MSC-treated groups<sup>[32]</sup>.

On the other hand, MSCs were used to diminish hepatocellular damage in acute liver diseases. Recently, a phase II clinical trial in acute-on-chronic liver failure compared the standard medical treatment with one dose of allogeneic BM-derived MSC therapy<sup>[28]</sup>. In this study, MSC treatment demonstrated to be safe and able to improve bilirubin levels and MELD score. Interestingly, MSC transplant increased survival rate and decreased severe infection events<sup>[28]</sup>.

Long-term immunosuppression is frequently associated with impairment in patients' quality of life and increased risk of infection or cancer. Therefore, considering their immunomodulatory capacity, MSCs can be used to induce tolerance after liver transplantation. In this regard, Detry *et al.*<sup>[25]</sup> reported that MSC infusion 3 d after liver transplant was feasible, safe and well tolerated. No opportunistic infections or *de novo* cancer were detected in 12 mo follow-up. However, no difference was observed in peripheral blood CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell proportion

and immunosuppression could not be withdrawn in MSC-treated patients. In addition, the administration of umbilical cord-derived MSCs as therapy to prolong graft-survival in patients with severe ischemic-type biliary lesions after liver transplantation was also evaluated<sup>[24]</sup>. Six doses of MSCs were infused intravenously every 2-4 wk, and patients were followed-up for 2 years and compared with a prospective cohort of patients treated with standard therapy. Remarkably, MSCs were safe, improved hepatic function, prolonged graft-survival and did not induce cancer or increase microbial infection events<sup>[24]</sup>. In conclusion, these results demonstrated that MSC therapy is a safe procedure, especially in the field of solid organ transplant where intense and prolonged immunosuppression is required. Moreover, MSC administration could prevent the development of opportunistic infections or *de novo* tumor formation. All considered, the promising information generated in the clinic opens the possibility for further studies to determine the optimal protocol conditions of MSC application needed to induce tolerance after liver transplant.

Application of MSCs for treatment of either acute or chronic liver diseases has a promising future in the clinic. In acute liver diseases, MSCs could have a role decreasing liver damage progression or as a bridge for

**Table 1 Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells clinical trials for liver diseases**

Ref.	Etiology or disease	Cell source/origin	Study design (n; groups)	Cell administration condition			Phase	Results	Follow up	Side effects
				Dose	P value	Route				
Mohamadnejad <i>et al</i> <sup>[14]</sup> 2007	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 4	1, 0.6 × 10 <sup>7</sup>	2-4	IV	I	MELD ↓	12 mo	None
Kharaziha <i>et al</i> <sup>[15]</sup> 2009	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 8; 4 HBV 1 HCV 1 Alcohol 2 Control	3.5 × 10 <sup>7</sup>	3-4	PV/IV	I/II	MELD ↓	24 wk	None
El-Ansary <i>et al</i> <sup>[16]</sup> 2010	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 12	10 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	1	IS/IV	I	MELD ↓; no differences between IS vs IV	6 mo	NA
Peng <i>et al</i> <sup>[29]</sup> 2011	Cirrhosis (HBV)	BM/Auto	n = 158; 53 MSC 105 Control	3.4-3.8 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	3	HA	I/II	ALB ↑, MELD ↓	48 mo	None
Amer <i>et al</i> <sup>[34]</sup> 2011	Cirrhosis (HCV)	BM/Auto	n = 40; 20 MSC 20 Control	2 × 10 <sup>7</sup>	NA	IS/IH	I/II	ALB ↑, C.P ↓, MELD ↓	6 mo	Fever (50%), transient shivering (15%) NA
El-Ansary <i>et al</i> <sup>[17]</sup> 2012	Cirrhosis (HCV)	BM/Auto	n = 25; 9 MSC 6 Hep. Diff. 10 Control	1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg MSC or 40% HLCs and 60% MSCs	5	IV	II	ALB ↑, MELD ↓, no differences between HLCs vs MSCs.	6 mo	NA
Zhang <i>et al</i> <sup>[18]</sup> 2012	Cirrhosis (HBV)	UC/Allo	n = 45; 30 MSC 15 Control	0.5 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg every 4 wk, 3 times	3-4	IV	I/II	ALB ↑, MELD ↓, ascites ↓	48 wk	None
Shi <i>et al</i> <sup>[19]</sup> 2012	Acute-on-chronic Liver failure (HBV cirrhosis)	UC/Allo	n = 43; 34 MSC 9 Control	0.5 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg every 4 wk, 3 times	3-4	IV	I/II	ALB ↑, PT ↑, MELD ↓, SR ↑	72 wk	None
Mohamadnejad <i>et al</i> <sup>[20]</sup> 2013	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 25; 14 MSC 11 Control	2 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	3-4	IV	II	No beneficial effect	12 mo	None
Wang <i>et al</i> <sup>[21]</sup> 2013	UDCA-resistant PBC	UC/Allo	n = 7	0.5 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg every 4 wk, 3 times	4	IV	I/II	ALP ↓, γ-GT ↓, quality of life ↑ (fatigue ↓, pruritus ↓)	48 wk	None
Amin <i>et al</i> <sup>[35]</sup> 2013	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 20	10 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	2	IS	I/II	ALT ↓, AST ↓, BIL ↓, PT ↓, ALB ↑, PT ↑	24 wk	None
Jang <i>et al</i> <sup>[30]</sup> 2014	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 11	5 × 10 <sup>7</sup> every 4 wk, 2 times	4-5	HA	II	C.P ↓, TGF-β ↓, α-SMA ↓, collagen-1 ↓, fibrosis ↓	20 wk	None
Wang <i>et al</i> <sup>[18]</sup> 2014	UDCA-resistant PBC	BM/Allo	n = 10	3-5 × 10 <sup>5</sup> /kg	3-5	IV	I/II	ALT ↓, AST ↓, γ-GT ↓, BIL ↓, IgM ↓, Tregs ↑, IL-10 ↑, CD8+T cells ↓	12 mo	None
Salama <i>et al</i> <sup>[23]</sup> 2014	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 40; 20 MSC 20 Control	1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg	0	IV	II	ALT ↓, AST ↓, BIL ↓, ALB ↑, PT ↑, C.P ↓, ascites ↓	26 wk	NA
Xu <i>et al</i> <sup>[31]</sup> 2014	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 56; 27 MSC 29 Control	0.75 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg	NA	HA	II/III	ALB ↑, MELD ↓, ↑ Tregs/Th17 cell ratio, IL-17 ↓, TNF-α ↓, IL-6 ↓, TGF-β ↑	24 wk	NA
Suk <i>et al</i> <sup>[32]</sup> 2016	Cirrhosis	BM/Auto	n = 55; 18 MSC (× 1 d) 19 MSC (× 2 d) 18 Control	5 × 10 <sup>7</sup> (1 mo post BM asp.) / 5 × 10 <sup>7</sup> (1 and 2 m post BM asp.)	4-5	HA	II	C.P ↓, fibrosis ↓	12 mo	None
Zhang <i>et al</i> <sup>[24]</sup> 2017	Ischemic-type biliary lesions	UC/Allo	n = 82; 12 MSC 70 Control	1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg; week 1, 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16	4	IV	II/III	BIL ↓, ALP ↓, γ-GT ↓, graft survival ↑	24 mo	None
Detry <i>et al</i> <sup>[25]</sup> 2017	Liver transplantation	BM/Allo	n = 20; 10 MSC 10 Control	1.5-3 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg; day 3 post-transplant	2-3	IV	I/II	No beneficial effect	6 mo	None
Sakai <i>et al</i> <sup>[33]</sup> 2017	Cirrhosis	AT/Auto	n = 4	6.6 × 10 <sup>5</sup> /kg	0	HA	I	ALB ↑, PT ↓	1 mo	None
Shi <i>et al</i> <sup>[26]</sup> 2017	Liver transplantation	UC/Allo	n = 20; 14 MSC 13 Control	1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg; every 4 wk, 3 times	3-4	IV	I	ALT ↓, AST ↓, BIL ↓, improve liver allograft histology, acute rejection ↓ (↑ peripheral Tregs, ↑ Tregs/Th17 cell ratio).	12 wk	None
Hartleif <i>et al</i> <sup>[27]</sup> 2017	Pediatric liver transplantation	BM/Allo	n = 7	1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> /kg; day 0 and day 2 post-transplantation	2-3	PV/IV	I	NA	24 mo	None

Lin <i>et al</i> <sup>[28]</sup> 2017	Acute-on-chronic Cirrhosis (HBV)	BM/Allo	n = 110; 56 MSC 54 Control	1-10 × 10 <sup>5</sup> cells/kg; 1/wk, 4 wk	5-6	IV	I/II	MELD↓, SR↑, infections↓	24 wk	None
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------	----------------------------	---	-----	----	------	-------------------------	-------	------

P: Passage; BM: Bone Marrow; Allo: Allogeneic; Auto: Autologous; IV: Intravenous Infusion; MELD: Model for end-stage Liver Disease; HBV: Hepatitis B Virus; HCV: Hepatitis C Virus; IS: Intrasplenic; IH: Intrahepatic; NA: Not available; HA: Hepatic artery; CP: Child-Pugh score; HLC: Hepatocyte-like cells; UC: Umbilical cord; SR: Survival rate; Cr: Creatinine; BIL: Bilirubin; PBC: Primary biliary cirrhosis; UDCA: Ursodeoxycholic acid; Hep. Diff.: Hepatocyte differentiated; PT: Prothrombin time; ALT: Alanine aminotransferase; AST: Aspartate aminotransferase; ALP: Alkaline phosphatase;  $\gamma$ -GT:  $\gamma$ -glutamyltranspeptidase; Asp: Aspiration.

liver transplant. In chronic liver diseases, MSCs could contribute to decrease liver damage, to ameliorate the degree of fibrosis, and even to avoid the need for transplant in some particular cases. On the other hand, in the post-transplant setting, MSC therapy could extend the graft survival and/or decrease the amount of immunosuppression. However, it is extremely important to understand that therapeutic potential of MSCs is an open question, and the information regarding source of MSCs, culture conditions, pre-condition protocols before cell transplantation, administration route, number of doses, and time of treatment are very heterogeneous and standardization is needed.

## MECHANISM OF ACTION OF MSCS IN LIVER REGENERATION

As detailed above, is necessary to understand the mechanisms that mediate MSCs therapeutic effects prior to continuing with its clinical application. The understanding of MSC biology has grown considerably. In the last decade, many mechanisms involved in their regenerative potential have been identified. These mechanisms involve, at least in part, migration toward injured tissues, immunomodulatory properties, differentiation and/or secretion of regenerative factors, which induce cell survival and proliferation<sup>[7,9,36,37]</sup>. It has been described that MSCs can be recruited to inflamed tissue by classic mechanism of blood stream migration: Rolling, adherence to endothelium and transmigration<sup>[8,36]</sup>. The injured liver produces signals that induce migration and homing of different cell types<sup>[38,39]</sup>. Both, chronic and acute liver injury induce apoptosis and necrosis of hepatocytes and/or cholangiocytes, infiltration of leucocytes, monocytes and activation of Kupffer cells (KCs), liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs) and hepatic stellate cells (HeSCs)<sup>[2,3,40]</sup>. In this context, MSCs could be attracted by several chemokines, cytokines and factors secreted by the damaged liver microenvironment, such as IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, IL-8, monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), growth-regulated protein (GRO), TNF- $\alpha$ , TGF- $\beta$ 1, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and stromal cell-derived factor 1 (SDF-1) among others. Receptors for these chemoattractants were found to be expressed in MSCs allowing them to migrate to the injured liver<sup>[11,36]</sup>.

The differentiation potential of MSCs has been

considered one of the advantages for their regenerative application<sup>[7,41-43]</sup>. By definition, MSCs give rise to cells of mesodermal lineages including osteoblasts, adipoblasts and chondroblasts<sup>[44]</sup>. Furthermore, there are many reports demonstrating that MSCs might differentiate to ectodermal (neurons), endodermal (hepatocytes) as well as other mesodermal lineages (cardiomyocytes), but this field remains very controversial<sup>[7,41]</sup>. In this context, a putative mechanism postulated for liver regeneration was the MSC differentiation into hepatocyte-like cells<sup>[45]</sup>. A number of differentiation *in vitro* protocols were explored in MSCs obtained from bone marrow, adipose tissue or umbilical cord demonstrating that MSC-derived cells acquired characteristic markers and functions of immature and mature hepatocytes (reviewed in Fiore *et al*<sup>[7]</sup>). In fact, a clinical trial compared the effect of autologous BM-MSCs undifferentiated or differentiated into hepatocyte-like cells in patients with cirrhosis. Despite the improvement of liver function, there was no significant difference between undifferentiated or differentiated MSC-based treatment<sup>[17]</sup>. However, difficulties to study and reproduce the *in vitro* differentiation and *in vivo* tracking after their administration, makes the MSC differentiation to hepatocytes a controversial field. This difficulty is due, at least in part, to unspecificity and/or unreliability of methods/trackers/reagents frequently used for the identification of cells or the phenotype they might acquire after their transplantation<sup>[46,47]</sup>. It should be noted that track able MSCs by GFP expression is detectable in the liver up to 7 d after transplant and then the signal rapidly decreases in animal models<sup>[48]</sup>. Moreover, some evidence indicated that in spite of the MSC homing to the liver, the rate of differentiation to hepatocyte-like cells is very low (less to 1%)<sup>[49,50]</sup>. Together, this information demonstrates that the main regenerative effect of MSCs cannot be explained by the differentiation to hepatocyte-like cells.

Broad scientific consensus states that the regenerative effect of MSCs is due to paracrine mechanisms. The versatility of MSCs makes them able to differentially express factors depending on the surrounding microenvironment<sup>[51]</sup>. In the context of liver fibrosis, it was observed that MSCs produce high levels of anti-apoptotic growth factors such as SDF-1, VEGF, hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-I<sup>[9]</sup>. Also, the release of HGF, fibroblast growth factor (FGF), IL-6, fibrinogen and TGF- $\alpha$  can induce hepatocyte proliferation<sup>[51]</sup>. In addition, HGF



and epidermal growth factor (EGF) can induce hepatic progenitor cell proliferation and differentiation<sup>[52]</sup> and VEGF increases angiogenesis, an important event for liver regeneration<sup>[53]</sup>. Moreover, IL-10, HGF and IGF-I produced by MSCs can reduce fibrogenesis by inhibition of HeSCs activation and proliferation<sup>[7,9]</sup>. MSCs also secrete factors involved in extracellular matrix remodeling and chemokines that attract immune cells which could modulate their function<sup>[51]</sup>. In this way, *in vivo* administration of conditioned medium (CM) obtained from MSC cultures can be effective to reduce liver injury. It was reported that the administration of MSC-derived CM significantly improved short-term survival in a D-galactosamine-induced rat model of fulminant hepatic failure<sup>[54,55]</sup>. Furthermore, MSC-CM therapy had great inhibitory effects on hepatocellular death reducing hepatocyte apoptosis in a 90%. In addition, an increase in liver regeneration programs and number of proliferating hepatocytes was observed<sup>[55]</sup>. Subsequently, it was demonstrated that EVs, present in CM, are partly responsible of the therapeutic effects of MSCs<sup>[10,56]</sup>.

## EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES

Although, EVs were described as intracellular mediators many years ago, they have recently generated great interest as therapeutic and diagnostic tools. Initially, "extracellular vesicle" was used to refer to all kind of vesicles released by cells. Nevertheless, the increased knowledge of their biology allowed to distinguish between different types of vesicles<sup>[57]</sup>. Exosomes (50-100 nm in diameter) are homogenous and the largest family of EVs and are different from microvesicles (100-1000 nm) and apoptotic bodies (500-2000 nm) in size and biogenesis<sup>[58]</sup>. While exosomes are originated from multivesicular bodies (MVBs), microvesicles are originated directly from plasma membrane and released to extracellular space<sup>[58]</sup>. At present, vesicles can only be fractioned according to their sizes and no specific markers have been described. Due to a large heterogeneity in methods of isolation and terminology in the past published results, in this review we will refer to exosomes and microvesicles as "EVs". In order to define a minimal criteria for EV characterization, the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles (ISEV) suggests a semi-quantitative analysis for typical protein marker, such as CD9, CD63, CD81, Alix or TSG101, size analysis and morphology examination<sup>[59]</sup>. In addition to these specific proteins, EVs contain a large number of proteins (growth factors, cytokines, vesicles proteins), DNAs, mRNAs, microRNAs (miRNAs), long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs)<sup>[57,59]</sup>. An interesting characteristic of EVs is that they can be charged with specific components of the cell of origin, and this "cargo" could be modified by different stimuli and microenvironment conditions<sup>[58]</sup>. As mentioned above, it has been demonstrated that EVs are involved in the paracrine effects of MSCs, but as EVs

are implicated in many intercellular communications, we will first describe their implication in liver diseases.

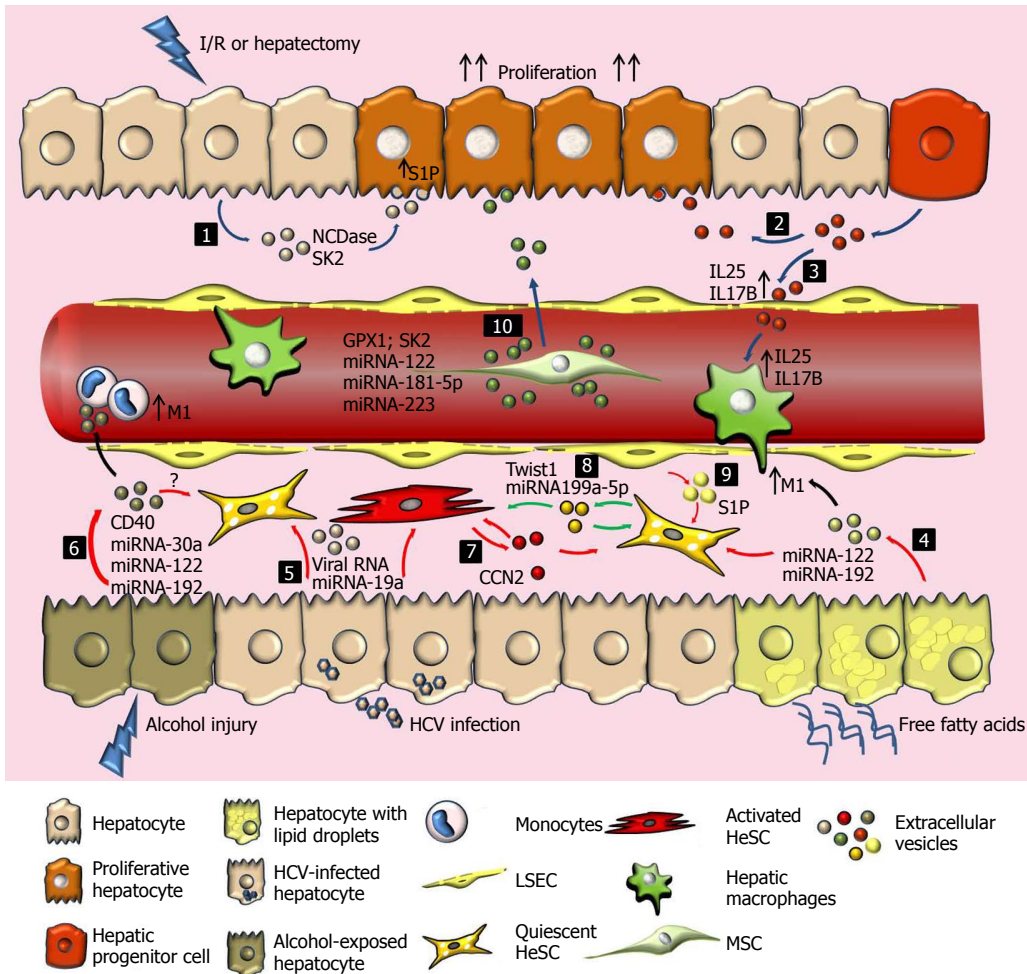
## EVs IN LIVER DISEASES

EVs have been implicated in a number of physiological and pathophysiological processes, such as immune response, angiogenesis, tissue regeneration, tumorigenesis/metastasis and neurodegenerative diseases<sup>[60-62]</sup>. In patients with primary biliary cirrhosis it was demonstrated that serum exosomes are taken up by peripheral monocytes and dendritic cells, resulting in the up regulation of co-stimulatory molecules<sup>[63]</sup>. Interestingly, serum circulating EVs present different miRNA composition in cirrhotic patients when compared with healthy controls<sup>[63,64]</sup>. Recent findings demonstrated that EVs are implicated in viral hepatitis, drug-induced injury, alcohol injury, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and biliary injury<sup>[65,66]</sup>.

### EVs derived from parenchymal cells

Exosomes transport a variety of macromolecules that could act as signals between donor and recipient cells. *In vitro* studies demonstrated that liver parenchymal cells produce EVs that are involved in many physiological and pathophysiological processes<sup>[65,66]</sup>. For instance, it was demonstrated that there is an increase in the number of circulating exosomes with proliferative effect on hepatocytes after ischemia/reperfusion injury<sup>[67]</sup>. Nojima *et al.*<sup>[67]</sup> reported that EVs derived from hepatocytes, but no other liver cells can induce hepatocyte proliferation *in vitro*. It should be noted that hepatocyte-derived EVs exert their effect in a dose-dependent manner. Furthermore, their administration in mice under ischemia/reperfusion liver injury or after 70% hepatectomy promotes hepatocyte proliferation and liver regeneration. Similarly, Herrera *et al.*<sup>[68]</sup> showed that hepatic progenitor cell-derived EVs promote hepatocyte proliferation, suppress cell death, and accelerate liver regeneration in rats after hepatectomy. The author suggested that this effect is mediated by the delivery of RNA by EVs to target cells. It is worth mention, that current data demonstrated that hepatocyte-derived exosome properties are mediated by fusion with target hepatocytes transferring their cargos<sup>[67,69,70]</sup>. For example, hepatocyte-derived EVs transfer neutral ceramidase and sphingosine kinase 2 (SK2) within hepatocytes resulting in the induction of sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P), a demonstrated promoter of cell proliferation<sup>[67]</sup> (Figure 2). Further studies of the same group showed that CXCR1 is required for packaging of SK2 into exosomes and CXCR2 regulates neutral sphingomyelinase activity and there by neutral ceramidase production<sup>[71]</sup>.

On the other hand, hepatocyte-derived EVs in a nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) model interact with macrophages inducing an inflammatory phenotype<sup>[72]</sup> (Figure 2). Activation of the death receptor 5 (DR-5) expressed on hepatocytes by free fatty acid induces



**Figure 2 Extracellular vesicles as paracrine mediator in liver disease and therapeutics potential of mesenchymal stem/stromal cells.** After ischemia reperfusion injury (I/R) or hepatectomy, hepatocytes (1) HPCs (2) release EVs with the ability to induce hepatocyte proliferation. (3) HPC-derived EVs stimulate LSECs and macrophages production of proliferative cytokines such as IL25 and IL17B. (4) On the other hand, free fatty acids induce the production of hepatocyte-derived EVs that result in the activation of quiescent HeSCs and pro-inflammatory macrophages (M1). (5) During chronic hepatitis C virus infection, EVs secreted by HCV-infected hepatocytes induce activation of HeSCs. (6) EVs secreted by hepatocytes after alcohol injury (containing CD40L and miRNAs) induce activation of monocytes and HeSCs. It seems to be a balance between EVs derived from active or quiescent HeSCs that promotes or inhibits fibrogenesis. Activated HeSC-derived EVs induce activation of quiescent HeSCs through CCN2 (7) and quiescent HeSCs inhibit activated HeSCs transferring Twist1 or miRNA199a-5p (8). LSEC-derived EVs could also regulate HeSC activation (9). MSC-EVs induce hepatocyte proliferation, reduce oxidative stress and apoptosis, and modulate inflammatory response by carrying GPX1 or SK2 (10). Engineered MSC-EVs transferring miRNA-122, miRNA 181 5p and miRNA-223 have potential effects. The effects of MSC-EVs on HeSCs, hepatic macrophages, LSEC and infiltrated cells populations remain poorly explored. Green arrows: Inactivation of HeSCs; Red arrows: Activation of HeSCs; Blue arrow: Proliferative effect; Colors spots represent EVs from different cell origin; NCDase: Neutral ceramidase; SK2: Sphingosine kinase 2; S1P: Sphingosine-1-phosphate; IL: Interleukin; SK1: Sphingosine kinase 1; CCN2: Connective tissue growth factor; Twist1: Basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor; GPX1: Glutathione peroxidase 1; HCV: Hepatitis C virus; EVs: Extracellular vesicles.

there lease of EVs that could stimulate IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-6 expression on macrophages<sup>[72]</sup>. On the same line, EVs derived from palmitic acid (PA) stimulated hepatoma cells (Huh7 and HepG2) induce a profibrogenic phenotype on HeSCs<sup>[73]</sup>. Moreover, the activation of HeSCs seems to be related with the presence of miRNA-122 and miRNA-192 in the EVs<sup>[73]</sup> (Figure 2). Similarly, an increase in the number of circulating exosomes in mice is observed after chronic alcohol consumption<sup>[74]</sup>. Furthermore, *in vitro* incubation of hepatocytes with ethanol not only increases the release of exosomes but also allows monocyte activation through miRNA-122 horizontal transfer<sup>[74,75]</sup>. Remarkably, circulating EVs obtained from patients with alcoholic hepatitis show higher levels of miRNA-30a, miRNA-192 and, in particular, miRNA-122 than those

obtained from healthy donors<sup>[74]</sup> (Figure 2).

EVs have also been implicated in horizontal transfer of information in chronic hepatitis C infection between hepatocytes and HeSCs. Devhare *et al.*<sup>[76]</sup> demonstrated that EVs derived from HCV-infected hepatocytes transfer viral RNAs that increases the expression of profibrogenic markers on HeSCs. Interestingly, these EVs carry miR-19a that activates the STAT3 signaling, enhancing the expression of TGF- $\beta$  and IL-6. Importantly, miR-19a up-regulation was observed in HCV-infected hepatocytes and in sera of chronic HCV patients with fibrosis<sup>[76,77]</sup> (Figure 2). Moreover, Seo *et al.*<sup>[78]</sup> demonstrated that EVs are implicated in HeSCs activation *via* toll-like receptor 3 with the subsequent activation of  $\gamma\delta$  T cell population exacerbating liver fibrosis. Regarding other

liver parenchymal cells, the role of cholangiocyte-derived EVs has been less studied. However, the presence of circulating EVs with altered miRNA composition and immunostimulatory functions on patients with PBC could suggest a role of cholangiocyte-derived EVs on this disease<sup>[63,64]</sup>.

### **EVs derived from non-parenchymal cells**

Non-parenchymal cells, including LSECs, Kupffer cells, lymphocytes, and HeSCs play a critical role in many liver diseases and use EVs for communication with neighbor cells during liver damage<sup>[65,66]</sup>. For instance, connective tissue growth factor (CCN2), a pro-fibrogenic mediator, is packaged into EVs produced by activated HeSCs. Then, exosome CCN2 can be delivered to other quiescent or activated HeSCs to induce trans-activation<sup>[79]</sup>. On the other hand, EVs derived from quiescent but not from activated HeSCs transport Twist 1 that suppress CCN2 on target cells through miR-214 induction<sup>[80]</sup>. Furthermore, Chen *et al.*<sup>[81]</sup> showed that miR-199a-5p is loaded in quiescent HeSCs-derived EVs and also regulates CCN2 expression and activity on target cells (Figure 2). It seems to be a balance between EVs derived from active or quiescent HeSCs that promotes or inhibits liver damage. In addition, LSECs are known to maintain the HeSC quiescence through direct cell-to-cell contact and paracrine factors secretion<sup>[82]</sup>. Wang *et al.*<sup>[83]</sup> demonstrated that LSEC-derived EVs have the ability to transfer Sphingosine kinase 1 (SK1) to regulate HeSC activation. In contrast, Ichinohe *et al.*<sup>[84]</sup> demonstrated that progenitor hepatic cell-derived EVs stimulate LSECs and Kupffer cells to produce IL17B and IL25 resulting in proliferation of small progenitor hepatic cells (SPHCs) and liver regeneration (Figure 2). These findings evidence the importance of EVs derived from LSECs in affecting the activation state of neighboring cells. However, the mechanisms by which exosomes reach and attach target cells are not well understood. It has been reported that endocytosis of LSEC-derived EVs is mediated by the interaction between exosomal fibronectin and its ligand on the surface of HeSCs<sup>[83]</sup>. Additionally, integrin  $\alpha v \beta 3$  or  $\alpha 5 \beta 1$  and heparan sulfate proteoglycan are ligand for EVs-HeSCs interaction and allow information transfer from endothelial cells<sup>[85]</sup>.

Other important non-parenchymal cells involved in fibrogenesis are Kupffer cells and infiltrating macrophages. These cells are key players not only in fibrogenesis but also in fibrosis resolution and regeneration<sup>[86,87]</sup>. In alcoholic liver injury, hepatocyte-derived EVs enriched in miR-122 sensitize macrophages to LPS and induce their production of pro-inflammatory cytokines<sup>[75]</sup>. Moreover, CD40L presence on hepatocyte-derived EVs during alcoholic hepatitis promotes macrophage activation and the switch to a pro-inflammatory profile<sup>[88,89]</sup>. In contrast, *in vitro* exposure of monocytes to alcohol increased their release of EVs, which in turn induce an anti-inflammatory M2 profile of naïve monocytes<sup>[90]</sup>. Interestingly, EVs derived

from alcohol exposed monocytes contain high levels of miR-27a that is known to induce M2 polarization<sup>[90,91]</sup> (Figure 2).

In summary, it has been determined that EVs play a key role on the pathophysiological response to liver damage. EVs allow the interaction between parenchymal cells and non-parenchymal cells, mainly HeSCs, Kupffer cells and LSECs, mediating their anti/pro-fibrogenic state. The role of EVs in cell-to-cell communication during liver damage and the transfer of molecules, proteins and miRNAs is gaining importance in the field. Furthermore, this mechanism can be exploited for new therapeutic approaches or used as biomarkers in non-invasive methods. In line with this, it has recently been reported that MSCs release high levels of EVs that can mediate part of their therapeutic effects. Thus, considering the key role of EVs in liver cell communication, MSC-derived EVs (MSC-EVs) could be studied as a new therapeutic approach for hepatic regeneration strategies.

## **MSC-EVS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR LIVER REGENERATION**

As described above, the main mechanism by which MSCs support the repair and regeneration of injured tissues is by releasing paracrine factors<sup>[7]</sup>. Recently, this paracrine mechanism was described to be partially mediated by EVs released by MSCs<sup>[10,56]</sup>. *In vitro* assays demonstrated that MSC-EVs induce hepatocyte proliferation and dedifferentiation into progenitor oval cells<sup>[92,93]</sup>. Therapeutic effects of MSC-EVs were demonstrated in pre-clinical models of acute kidney injury<sup>[94]</sup>, and then in pathologies of heart, brain, kidney, muscle and liver<sup>[95]</sup>.

Li *et al.*<sup>[96]</sup> demonstrated that MSC-EVs reduced the degree of hepatic injury, collagen deposition and inflammation in mice with fibrosis induced by carbon tetrachloride (CCl<sub>4</sub>). The antifibrotic effect observed by MSC-EVs is mediated by the inactivation of TGF- $\beta$ 1/Smad signaling pathway. Moreover, a reversion of the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) both *in vivo* and *in vitro* was observed after the EV treatment<sup>[96]</sup> (Figure 2). Therefore, EVs derived from human MSCs were effective in mice demonstrating that they preserve at least part of the immunomodulatory properties of the cells of origin.

As for liver fibrosis, the therapeutic capacity of MSC-EVs was also assessed in acute models of liver injury. Cheng *et al.*<sup>[97]</sup> studied the effect of EVs derived from menstrual blood MSCs in a galactosamine/LPS mice model. MSC-EVs were able to enhance animal survival and reversion of liver failure through hepatocyte apoptosis inhibition and systemic inflammation reduction. In addition, *in vitro* assays showed that EVs are taken up by AML12 cells (hepatocyte cell line) resulting in the inhibition of apoptosis induced by galactosamine/LPS<sup>[97]</sup>. Similar results were observed by Haga *et al.*<sup>[98]</sup> using EVs



**Table 2 Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells-derived extracellular vesicles in experimental models of liver disease**

Ref.	EVs Isolation/characteristics	Experimental model	Protocol	Biological effects
Haga <i>et al</i> <sup>[98]</sup> 2016	Ultracentrifugation Size: 46-116 nm Alix <sup>+</sup> CD9 <sup>+</sup> , CD81 <sup>+</sup>	C57Bl mice. ALF, i.p. 20 mg/body D-GalNAc + 0,3 mg/body TNF- $\alpha$	$2 \times 10^8$ to $2 \times 10^{10}$ i.p./i.v.	↑ Survival, ↑ F4/80, ↑ inhibitor MMP-1 and IL-6, ↓ inflammation and apoptosis, ↓ ALT/AST, ↓ ALP, ↓ EGF, SCF, IFN- $\gamma$ , IP-10, IL-1 $\alpha$ , MIP-3, MCP-1/3
Yan <i>et al</i> <sup>[100]</sup> 2016	Ultracentrifugation Size: 30-100 nm CD9 <sup>+</sup> , CD61 <sup>+</sup> , CD63 <sup>+</sup>	BALB/c- <sup>nu/nu</sup> mice, i.p. CCL <sub>4</sub> -induced ALF, 0.15-0.35 mL/kg	8, 16, and 32 mg/kg i.v./oral	↓ Oxidative stress and apoptosis Induces ERK1/2 phosphorylation and Bcl2 expression Inhibits IKK $\beta$ /NF $\kappa$ B/casp9/3 pathway
Tan <i>et al</i> <sup>[99]</sup> 2014	TFF, 100.kDa MWCO filter Size: 55-100 nm	C57BL/6 mice. CCL <sub>4</sub> -induced ALF, i.p. 0.05 mL CCL <sub>4</sub> /kg	0.4 $\mu$ g (100 $\mu$ L) i.s.	↑ Cell viability: TAMH, THLE-2, and Huh-7 ↑ Hepatocytes proliferation ↓ ALT/AST ↓ Casp 3/7 ↑ antiapoptoticBcl-xL
Chen <i>et al</i> <sup>[97]</sup> 2017	Centrifugation and Exoquick-TC Size: 30-100 nm CD63 <sup>+</sup> and tsg101 <sup>+</sup>	C57BL/6 mice. ALF, i.p. D-GalNAc 800 mg/kg and LPS 50 $\mu$ g/kg	1 $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ L i.v.	↑ Liver function and survival ↓ Apoptosis ↓ TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6 and IL-1 ↓ Casp-3 ↓ Necrosis and inflammation
Nong <i>et al</i> <sup>[101]</sup> 2016	Ultracentrifugation and ultrafiltration Size: 50-60 nm CD9 <sup>+</sup> , CD63 <sup>+</sup> and CD81 <sup>+</sup>	Rats I/R injury	600 $\mu$ g suspended in 400 $\mu$ L of PBS i.v.	↑ GSH, GSH-PX and SOD ↓ AST/ALT ↓ TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6 and HMGB1 ↓ Casp-3 and Bax
Du <i>et al</i> <sup>[93]</sup> 2017	Centrifugation and filtered by 0, 45- $\mu$ m PVDF filter ExoQuick Size: 100-200 nm Alix <sup>+</sup> , CD63 <sup>+</sup> and CD81 <sup>+</sup>	C57 mice I/R injury	$2.5 \times 10^{12}$ particles in 500 $\mu$ L of PBS i.v.	↑ Hepatocytes proliferation ↑ SK activity and S1P formation. Hepatoprotective and proliferative effect abolished by the inhibition of SK or S1P receptor 1

i.p.: Intraperitoneal injection; i.v.: Intravenous injection; i.s.: Intrasplenic; MMP: Metalloproteinases; CCL<sub>4</sub>: Carbon tetrachloride; D-GalNAc: N Acetylgalactosamine; IL: Interleukins; ALT: Alanine aminotransferase; AST: Aspartate aminotransferase; ALP: Alkaline phosphatase; EGF: Epidermal growth factor; SCF: Stem cell factor; TNF: Tumor necrosis factor; IFN: Interferon; IP: Inducible protein; MIP: Macrophage inflammatory protein; MCP: Monocyte chemotactic protein; ERK: Extracellular signal-regulated kinase; Bcl: B-cell lymphoma; TFF: Tangential flow filtration; MWCO: Molecular weight cut-off; ALF: Acute liver failure; TAMH: Transgenic mouse hepatocyte; THLE: T-antigen immortalized human liver epithelial; Casp: Caspase; GSH: Glutathione; GSH-PX: Glutathione peroxidase; SOD: Superoxide dismutase; HMGB: High mobility group box; PBS: Phosphate-buffered saline; SK: Sphingosine kinase; S1P: Sphingosine 1-phosphate.

derived from bone marrow MSCs in an animal model of acute liver failure. A relevant finding was the preservation of the biological activity of cryopreserved-EVs up to 3 mo, indicating the stability of EVs<sup>[98]</sup>.

It is known that induction of oxidative stress in the liver results in severe hepatic diseases by inducing cell apoptosis. A protective and proliferative effect of MSC-EVs in a lethal mice model induced by a single dose of CCL<sub>4</sub> has been reported<sup>[99]</sup>. In addition, MSC-EVs inhibited hepatocyte apoptosis induced by acetaminophen and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and increased cell viability *in vitro*<sup>[99]</sup>. In this line, Yan *et al*<sup>[100]</sup> demonstrated that EVs derived from umbilical cord MSCs induced an antioxidant effect on hepatocytes. Glutathione peroxidase 1 (GPX1) delivered on MSC-EVs reduces the reactive oxygen species (ROS) intracellular levels and inhibits the oxidative stress-induced apoptosis *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Remarkably, authors demonstrated that a low dose of EVs (16 mg/kg of body weight) resulted in similar effects either by tail vein administration or oral gavage. In addition, Nong *et al*<sup>[101]</sup> tested the effect of EVs generated from MSC-derived Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) (MSC-iPSC-EVs) in hepatic ischemia-reperfusion (I-R) injury models. *In vivo* administration of MSC-iPSC-EVs in I-R injury mice model resulted in a decrease of oxidative stress response and apoptosis, and an increase of hepatocyte proliferation

(Figure 2). Consistently, an amelioration of hepatic damage and inflammatory response was observed after EV treatment. It should be noted that MSC-iPSC-EVs keep the characteristics of EVs usually obtained from tissue-derived MSCs (bone marrow, adipose tissue and umbilical cord)<sup>[101]</sup>. In addition, it has been reported that MSC-iPSC-EVs could directly fuse with hepatocytes increasing the activity of sphingosine kinase (SK1). Moreover, the increase in SK activity will in turn increase the sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) levels affecting hepatocyte proliferation<sup>[93]</sup> (Table 2).

Although there is a great therapeutic potential of MSC-EVs in liver protection and regeneration, it is mandatory to understand the mechanisms involved in their biological effects. One key point of research is to know the bio distribution of EVs after systemic administration *in vivo*. *In vitro* assays showed that EVs are taken up *via* integrin mediated endocytosis by target liver cells<sup>[67,85,90,97]</sup>. In addition, MSC-EV biodistribution after intravenous (IV) administration shows EVs uptake as fast as 3 to 6 h after injection in liver, spleen and lung cells<sup>[97]</sup>. Furthermore, Haga *et al*<sup>[98]</sup> reported that liver, spleen and lung from mice with fulminant hepatitis exert a higher uptake of MSC-EVs in comparison with organs from healthy mice. However, since these experiments have been carried out using lipophilic tracers, confirmation of these results with

specific markers is necessary. The MSC-EV survival in circulation after being administered and the recognition pathways used by the target cells need to be studied in depth. Moreover, this knowledge could help to define the better scheme of doses, the time of treatment and the route of administration depending of the type of liver damage. In addition, conformation details of proteins and nucleic acids loaded in the EVs is required.

## ENGINEERING MSC-EVS FOR LIVER REGENERATION

Recently, an increased interest has been shown by the research community to improve the efficiency and potency of EVs loading specific cargos<sup>[102]</sup>. As described above, the EVs produced by MSCs have useful properties that would allow them to be used as therapies in different liver pathologies<sup>[62]</sup>, and advances in nanomedicine would allow to improve the technology to generate more effective EVs<sup>[102,103]</sup>. Thereby, engineered EVs can be generated with strategies based on covalent surface chemistry, hydrophobic insertions or membrane permeabilization. Moreover, modification of the parental cells through metabolic labeling, genetic modification or by insertion of exogenous material could also produce modified EVs. These engineered EVs could carry specific DNAs, mRNAs or non-coding RNAs to the specific cell<sup>[102]</sup>.

Lou *et al.*<sup>[104]</sup> demonstrated that miRNA-122 expression in MSCs by lentiviral infection increased their therapeutic effect in a fibrosis model in mice. MiR-122 positively regulates proliferation and trans differentiation of HeSCs having an important role in liver fibrogenesis<sup>[105]</sup>. Authors demonstrated that *in vitro* miRNA-122 is transferred to HeSCs through MSC-EVs resulting in the regulation of genes involved in collagen maturation and cell proliferation<sup>[104]</sup>. Another strategy uses EVs derived from MSCs with transient expression of miRNA-181-5p as a therapeutic option in a liver fibrosis model<sup>[106]</sup>. As for miRNA-122, miRNA-181-5p was delivered by MSC-EVs reducing the fibrosis and the inflammatory state of fibrotic mice<sup>[106]</sup>. Moreover, *in vitro* experiments show that after reaching the target cell, miRNA-181-5p binds to 3'-UTR of STAT3 and Bcl-2, which in turn down regulates TGF- $\beta$ 1 expression and induces autophagy in HeSCs<sup>[106]</sup>. Finally, in a model of autoimmune hepatitis, a cytoprotective effect of MSC-EVs engineered to charge miRNA-223 was observed. The *in vitro* experiments demonstrated that miRNA-223 levels were increased in hepatocytes after their incubation with the engineered EVs<sup>[107]</sup>. Similar results were observed *in vivo* with an increase of this miRNA in the liver and a reduction of its target gene NLRP3, and therefore a decrease in hepatocyte apoptosis<sup>[107]</sup> (Figure 2).

In summary, more information is needed not only to develop more efficient therapies for liver diseases based on MSC-EVs but also to engineer them to increase their

efficacy and potency.

## CONCLUSION

MSCs-based therapy has emerged as a potent and innovative treatment for acute and chronic liver diseases. The safety and feasibility observed in the early clinical trials using MSCs have increased the interest to translate the use of these cells to the clinic. Moreover, pro-regenerative results and an improvement in the life quality of patients were observed. In ALF, MSCs could have a role decreasing liver damage progression due their immunomodulatory properties. In chronic liver diseases, MSCs could contribute to decrease liver damage and to ameliorate the degree of fibrosis. Even more, in both case MSC treatment could not only delay the transplant but also to avoid it in some particular cases. In addition, in the post-transplant setting, MSC therapy could extend the graft survival and/or decrease the amount of immunosuppression required. Although the main mechanism by which MSCs support the repair and regeneration of injured livers is by releasing paracrine factors, strong evidences demonstrated that this paracrine mechanism is mediated by EVs released by MSCs. Therefore, due to EVs' stability for long periods of time and easy isolation methods they have become a therapeutic option to MSCs treatments in liver diseases. At present, EVs are strongly explored for therapeutic or diagnostic application, and more information is needed to develop more efficient tools for liver diseases based on MSC-EVs. However, it is important to understand that therapeutic potential of MSCs or its EVs is still a matter of debate. In addition, standardization of source of MSCs, culture conditions, pre-condition protocols for cell transplantation, administration route, doses and time of treatment is required. Nevertheless, considering that development of new therapeutic approaches for liver diseases is urgent, MSCs emerge as potent innovation. Thus, take advantage of the therapeutic potential of MSCs as promising tool for liver regeneration could attend to an important worldwide human health problem.

## REFERENCES

- 1 Friedman SL. Mechanisms of hepatic fibrogenesis. *Gastroenterology* 2008; **134**: 1655-1669 [PMID: 18471545 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2008.03.003]
- 2 Lee YA, Wallace MC, Friedman SL. Pathobiology of liver fibrosis: a translational success story. *Gut* 2015; **64**: 830-841 [PMID: 25681399 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2014-306842]
- 3 Stravitz RT, Kramer DJ. Management of acute liver failure. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2009; **6**: 542-553 [PMID: 19652652 DOI: 10.1038/nrgastro.2009.127]
- 4 Trovato FM, Catalano D, Musumeci G, Trovato GM. 4Ps medicine of the fatty liver: the research model of predictive, preventive, personalized and participatory medicine-recommendations for facing obesity, fatty liver and fibrosis epidemics. *EPMA J* 2014; **5**: 21 [PMID: 25937854 DOI: 10.1186/1878-5085-5-21]
- 5 Trovato FM, Martines GF, Brischetto D, Catalano D, Musumeci G, Trovato GM. Fatty liver disease and lifestyle in youngsters: diet, food intake frequency, exercise, sleep shortage and fashion. *Liver*



- Int* 2016; **36**: 427-433 [PMID: 26346413 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12957]
- 6 **Aquino JB**, Bolontrade MF, Garcia MG, Podhajcer OL, Mazzolini G. Mesenchymal stem cells as therapeutic tools and gene carriers in liver fibrosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gene Ther* 2010; **17**: 692-708 [PMID: 20220785 DOI: 10.1038/gt.2010.10]
- 7 **Fiore EJ**, Mazzolini G, Aquino JB. Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cells in Liver Fibrosis: Recent Findings, Old/New Caveats and Future Perspectives. *Stem Cell Rev* 2015; **11**: 586-597 [PMID: 25820543 DOI: 10.1007/s12015-015-9585-9]
- 8 **Garcia MG**, Bayo J, Bolontrade MF, Sganga L, Malvicini M, Alaniz L, Aquino JB, Fiore E, Rizzo MM, Rodriguez A, Lorenti A, Andriani O, Podhajcer O, Mazzolini G. Hepatocellular carcinoma cells and their fibrotic microenvironment modulate bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stromal cell migration in vitro and in vivo. *Mol Pharm* 2011; **8**: 1538-1548 [PMID: 21770423 DOI: 10.1021/mp200137c]
- 9 **Volarevic V**, Nurkovic J, Arsenijevic N, Stojkovic M. Concise review: Therapeutic potential of mesenchymal stem cells for the treatment of acute liver failure and cirrhosis. *Stem Cells* 2014; **32**: 2818-2823 [PMID: 25154380 DOI: 10.1002/stem.1818]
- 10 **Camussi G**, Derigibus MC, Cantaluppi V. Role of stem-cell-derived microvesicles in the paracrine action of stem cells. *Biochem Soc Trans* 2013; **41**: 283-287 [PMID: 23356298 DOI: 10.1042/BST20120192]
- 11 **Squillaro T**, Peluso G, Galderisi U. Clinical Trials With Mesenchymal Stem Cells: An Update. *Cell Transplant* 2016; **25**: 829-848 [PMID: 26423725 DOI: 10.3727/096368915X689622]
- 12 **Mobasheri A**, Kalamegam G, Musumeci G, Batt ME. Chondrocyte and mesenchymal stem cell-based therapies for cartilage repair in osteoarthritis and related orthopaedic conditions. *Maturitas* 2014; **78**: 188-198 [PMID: 24855933 DOI: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2014.04.017]
- 13 **Tsuchiya A**, Kojima Y, Ikarashi S, Seino S, Watanabe Y, Kawata Y, Terai S. Clinical trials using mesenchymal stem cells in liver diseases and inflammatory bowel diseases. *Inflamm Regen* 2017; **37**: 16 [PMID: 29259715 DOI: 10.1186/s41232-017-0045-6]
- 14 **Mohamadnejad M**, Alimoghaddam K, Mohyeddin-Bonab M, Bagheri M, Bashtar M, Ghanaati H, Baharvand H, Ghavamzadeh A, Malekzadeh R. Phase I trial of autologous bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell transplantation in patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis. *Arch Iran Med* 2007; **10**: 459-466 [PMID: 17903050]
- 15 **Kharaziha P**, Hellström PM, Noorinayer B, Farzaneh F, Aghajani K, Jafari F, Telkabadi M, Atashi A, Honardoost M, Zali MR, Soleimani M. Improvement of liver function in liver cirrhosis patients after autologous mesenchymal stem cell injection: a phase I-II clinical trial. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2009; **21**: 1199-1205 [PMID: 19455046 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0b013e32832a1f6c]
- 16 **El-Ansary M**, Abdel-Aziz I, Abdel-Hamid S. Phase I Trial: Mesenchymal Stem Cells Transplantation in End Stage Liver Disease. *Journal of American Science* 2010; **6**: 1
- 17 **El-Ansary M**, Abdel-Aziz I, Mogawer S, Abdel-Hamid S, Hammam O, Teaema S, Wahdan M. Phase II trial: undifferentiated versus differentiated autologous mesenchymal stem cells transplantation in Egyptian patients with HCV induced liver cirrhosis. *Stem Cell Rev* 2012; **8**: 972-981 [PMID: 21989829 DOI: 10.1007/s12015-011-9322-y]
- 18 **Zhang Z**, Lin H, Shi M, Xu R, Fu J, Lv J, Chen L, Lv S, Li Y, Yu S, Geng H, Jin L, Lau GK, Wang FS. Human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells improve liver function and ascites in decompensated liver cirrhosis patients. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2012; **27** Suppl 2: 112-120 [PMID: 22320928 DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1746.2011.07024.x]
- 19 **Shi M**, Zhang Z, Xu R, Lin H, Fu J, Zou Z, Zhang A, Shi J, Chen L, Lv S, He W, Geng H, Jin L, Liu Z, Wang FS. Human mesenchymal stem cell transfusion is safe and improves liver function in acute-on-chronic liver failure patients. *Stem Cells Transl Med* 2012; **1**: 725-731 [PMID: 23197664 DOI: 10.5966/sctm.2012-0034]
- 20 **Mohamadnejad M**, Alimoghaddam K, Bagheri M, Ashrafi M, Abdollahzadeh L, Akhlaghpour S, Bashtar M, Ghavamzadeh A, Malekzadeh R. Randomized placebo-controlled trial of mesenchymal stem cell transplantation in decompensated cirrhosis. *Liver Int* 2013; **33**: 1490-1496 [PMID: 23763455 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12228]
- 21 **Wang L**, Li J, Liu H, Li Y, Fu J, Sun Y, Xu R, Lin H, Wang S, Lv S, Chen L, Zou Z, Li B, Shi M, Zhang Z, Wang FS. Pilot study of umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cell transfusion in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2013; **28** Suppl 1: 85-92 [PMID: 23855301 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.12029]
- 22 **Wang L**, Han Q, Chen H, Wang K, Shan GL, Kong F, Yang YJ, Li YZ, Zhang X, Dong F, Wang Q, Xu D, Hu ZJ, Wang SH, Keating A, Bi YL, Zhang FC, Zhao RC. Allogeneic bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell transplantation in patients with UDCA-resistant primary biliary cirrhosis. *Stem Cells Dev* 2014; **23**: 2482-2489 [PMID: 24835895 DOI: 10.1089/scd.2013.0500]
- 23 **Salama H**, Zekri AR, Medhat E, Al Alim SA, Ahmed OS, Bahnassy AA, Lotfy MM, Ahmed R, Musa S. Peripheral vein infusion of autologous mesenchymal stem cells in Egyptian HCV-positive patients with end-stage liver disease. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2014; **5**: 70 [PMID: 24886681 DOI: 10.1186/scrt459]
- 24 **Zhang YC**, Liu W, Fu BS, Wang GY, Li HB, Yi HM, Jiang N, Wang G, Zhang J, Yi SH, Li H, Zhang Q, Yang Y, Chen GH. Therapeutic potentials of umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stromal cells for ischemic-type biliary lesions following liver transplantation. *Cytotherapy* 2017; **19**: 194-199 [PMID: 27964826 DOI: 10.1016/j.jcyt.2016.11.005]
- 25 **Detry O**, Vandermeulen M, Delbouille MH, Somja J, Bletard N, Briquet A, Lechanteur C, Giet O, Baudoux E, Hannon M, Baron F, Beguin Y. Infusion of mesenchymal stromal cells after deceased liver transplantation: A phase I-II, open-label, clinical study. *J Hepatol* 2017; **67**: 47-55 [PMID: 28284916 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2017.03.001]
- 26 **Shi M**, Liu Z, Wang Y, Xu R, Sun Y, Zhang M, Yu X, Wang H, Meng L, Su H, Jin L, Wang FS. A Pilot Study of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapy for Acute Liver Allograft Rejection. *Stem Cells Transl Med* 2017; **6**: 2053-2061 [PMID: 29178564 DOI: 10.1002/sctm.17-0134]
- 27 **Hartleif S**, Schumm M, Döring M, Mezger M, Lang P, Dahlke MH, Riethmüller J, Königsrainer A, Handgretinger R, Nadalin S, Sturm E. Safety and Tolerance of Donor-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Pediatric Living-Donor Liver Transplantation: The MYSTEP1 Study. *Stem Cells Int* 2017; **2017**: 2352954 [PMID: 28740511 DOI: 10.1155/2017/2352954]
- 28 **Lin BL**, Chen JF, Qiu WH, Wang KW, Xie DY, Chen XY, Liu QL, Peng L, Li JG, Mei YY, Weng WZ, Peng YW, Cao HJ, Xie JQ, Xie SB, Xiang AP, Gao ZL. Allogeneic bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stromal cells for hepatitis B virus-related acute-on-chronic liver failure: A randomized controlled trial. *Hepatology* 2017; **66**: 209-219 [PMID: 28370357 DOI: 10.1002/hep.29189]
- 29 **Peng L**, Xie DY, Lin BL, Liu J, Zhu HP, Xie C, Zheng YB, Gao ZL. Autologous bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell transplantation in liver failure patients caused by hepatitis B: short-term and long-term outcomes. *Hepatology* 2011; **54**: 820-828 [PMID: 21608000 DOI: 10.1002/hep.24434]
- 30 **Jang YO**, Kim YJ, Baik SK, Kim MY, Eom YW, Cho MY, Park HJ, Park SY, Kim BR, Kim JW, Soo Kim H, Kwon SO, Choi EH, Kim YM. Histological improvement following administration of autologous bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells for alcoholic cirrhosis: a pilot study. *Liver Int* 2014; **34**: 33-41 [PMID: 23782511 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12218]
- 31 **Xu L**, Gong Y, Wang B, Shi K, Hou Y, Wang L, Lin Z, Han Y, Lu L, Chen D, Lin X, Zeng Q, Feng W, Chen Y. Randomized trial of autologous bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells transplantation for hepatitis B virus cirrhosis: regulation of Treg/Th17 cells. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2014; **29**: 1620-1628 [PMID: 24942592 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.12653]
- 32 **Suk KT**, Yoon JH, Kim MY, Kim CW, Kim JK, Park H, Hwang SG, Kim DJ, Lee BS, Lee SH, Kim HS, Jang JY, Lee CH, Kim BS, Jang YO, Cho MY, Jung ES, Kim YM, Bae SH, Baik

- SK. Transplantation with autologous bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells for alcoholic cirrhosis: Phase 2 trial. *Hepatology* 2016; **64**: 2185-2197 [PMID: 27339398 DOI: 10.1002/hep.28693]
- 33 **Sakai Y TM**, Seki A, Sunagozaka H, Terashima T, Komura T, Yamato M, Miyazawa M, Kawaguchi K, Nasti A, Mochida H, Usui S, Otani N, Ochiya T, Wada T, Honda M, Kaneko S. Phase I clinical study of liver regenerative therapy for cirrhosis by intrahepatic arterial infusion of freshly isolated autologous adipose tissue-derived stromal/stem (regenerative) cell *Reg. Ther* 2017; **6**: 52-64
- 34 **Amer ME**, El-Sayed SZ, El-Kheir WA, Gabr H, Gomaa AA, El-Noomani N, Hegazy M. Clinical and laboratory evaluation of patients with end-stage liver cell failure injected with bone marrow-derived hepatocyte-like cells. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2011; **23**: 936-941 [PMID: 21900788 DOI: 10.1097/MEG.0b013e3283488b00]
- 35 **Amin MA**, Sabry D, Rashed LA, Aref WM, el-Ghobary MA, Farhan MS, Fouad HA, Youssef YA. Short-term evaluation of autologous transplantation of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells in patients with cirrhosis: Egyptian study. *Clin Transplant* 2013; **27**: 607-612 [PMID: 23923970 DOI: 10.1111/ctr.12179]
- 36 **Bayo J**, Marrodán M, Aquino JB, Silva M, García MG, Mazzolini G. The therapeutic potential of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stromal cells on hepatocellular carcinoma. *Liver Int* 2014; **34**: 330-342 [PMID: 24112437 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12338]
- 37 **Usunier B**, Benderitter M, Tamarat R, Chapel A. Management of fibrosis: the mesenchymal stromal cells breakthrough. *Stem Cells Int* 2014; **2014**: 340257 [PMID: 25132856 DOI: 10.1155/2014/340257]
- 38 **Bayo J**, Fiore E, Aquino JB, Malvicini M, Rizzo M, Peixoto E, Andriani O, Alaniz L, Piccioni F, Bolontrade M, Podhajcer O, Garcia MG, Mazzolini G. Increased migration of human mesenchymal stromal cells by autocrine motility factor (AMF) resulted in enhanced recruitment towards hepatocellular carcinoma. *PLoS One* 2014; **9**: e95171 [PMID: 24736611 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0095171]
- 39 **Bayo J**, Real A, Fiore EJ, Malvicini M, Sganga L, Bolontrade M, Andriani O, Bizama C, Fresno C, Podhajcer O, Fernandez E, Gidekel M, Mazzolini GD, García MG. IL-8, GRO and MCP-1 produced by hepatocellular carcinoma microenvironment determine the migratory capacity of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stromal cells without affecting tumor aggressiveness. *Oncotarget* 2016; **8**: 80235-80248 [PMID: 29113298 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.10288]
- 40 **Battaller R**, Brenner DA. Liver fibrosis. *J Clin Invest* 2005; **115**: 209-218 [PMID: 15690074 DOI: 10.1172/JCI24282]
- 41 **Kuroda Y**, Kitada M, Wakao S, Dezawa M. Bone marrow mesenchymal cells: how do they contribute to tissue repair and are they really stem cells? *Arch Immunol Ther Exp (Warsz)* 2011; **59**: 369-378 [PMID: 21789625 DOI: 10.1007/s00005-011-0139-9]
- 42 **Gardner OFW**, Musumeci G, Neumann AJ, Eglin D, Archer CW, Alini M, Stoddart MJ. Asymmetrical seeding of MSCs into fibrin-poly(ester-urethane) scaffolds and its effect on mechanically induced chondrogenesis. *J Tissue Eng Regen Med* 2017; **11**: 2912-2921 [PMID: 27406210 DOI: 10.1002/term.2194]
- 43 **Musumeci G**, Lo Furno D, Loreto C, Giuffrida R, Caggia S, Leonardi R, Cardile V. Mesenchymal stem cells from adipose tissue which have been differentiated into chondrocytes in three-dimensional culture express lubricin. *Exp Biol Med (Maywood)* 2011; **236**: 1333-1341 [PMID: 22036733 DOI: 10.1258/ebm.2011.011183]
- 44 **Pittenger MF**, Mackay AM, Beck SC, Jaiswal RK, Douglas R, Mosca JD, Moorman MA, Simonetti DW, Craig S, Marshak DR. Multilineage potential of adult human mesenchymal stem cells. *Science* 1999; **284**: 143-147 [PMID: 10102814]
- 45 **Meier RP**, Müller YD, Morel P, Gonelle-Gispert C, Bühler LH. Transplantation of mesenchymal stem cells for the treatment of liver diseases, is there enough evidence? *Stem Cell Res* 2013; **11**: 1348-1364 [PMID: 24090934 DOI: 10.1016/j.scr.2013.08.011]
- 46 **Lin CS**, Xin ZC, Dai J, Lue TF. Commonly used mesenchymal stem cell markers and tracking labels: Limitations and challenges. *Histol Histopathol* 2013; **28**: 1109-1116 [PMID: 23588700 DOI: 10.14670/HH-28.1109]
- 47 **Reagan MR**, Kaplan DL. Concise review: Mesenchymal stem cell tumor-homing: detection methods in disease model systems. *Stem Cells* 2011; **29**: 920-927 [PMID: 21557390 DOI: 10.1002/stem.645]
- 48 **Fiore EJ**, Bayo JM, Garcia MG, Malvicini M, Lloyd R, Piccioni F, Rizzo M, Peixoto E, Sola MB, Atorrasagasti C, Alaniz L, Camilletti MA, Enguita M, Prieto J, Aquino JB, Mazzolini G. Mesenchymal stromal cells engineered to produce IGF-I by recombinant adenovirus ameliorate liver fibrosis in mice. *Stem Cells Dev* 2015; **24**: 791-801 [PMID: 25315017 DOI: 10.1089/scd.2014.0174]
- 49 **Dai LJ**, Li HY, Guan LX, Ritchie G, Zhou JX. The therapeutic potential of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells on hepatic cirrhosis. *Stem Cell Res* 2009; **2**: 16-25 [PMID: 19383405 DOI: 10.1016/j.scr.2008.07.005]
- 50 **Sato Y**, Araki H, Kato J, Nakamura K, Kawano Y, Kobune M, Sato T, Miyanishi K, Takayama T, Takahashi M, Takimoto R, Iyama S, Matsunaga T, Ohtani S, Matsuura A, Hamada H, Niitsu Y. Human mesenchymal stem cells xenografted directly to rat liver are differentiated into human hepatocytes without fusion. *Blood* 2005; **106**: 756-763 [PMID: 15817682 DOI: 10.1182/blood-2005-02-0572]
- 51 **Meirelles Lda S**, Fontes AM, Covas DT, Caplan AI. Mechanisms involved in the therapeutic properties of mesenchymal stem cells. *Cytokine Growth Factor Rev* 2009; **20**: 419-427 [PMID: 19926330 DOI: 10.1016/j.cytogfr.2009.10.002]
- 52 **Li WL**, Su J, Yao YC, Tao XR, Yan YB, Yu HY, Wang XM, Li JX, Yang YJ, Lau JT, Hu YP. Isolation and characterization of bipotent liver progenitor cells from adult mouse. *Stem Cells* 2006; **24**: 322-332 [PMID: 16109753 DOI: 10.1634/stemcells.2005-0108]
- 53 **Wang L**, Wang X, Wang L, Chiu JD, van de Ven G, Gaarde WA, Deleve LD. Hepatic vascular endothelial growth factor regulates recruitment of rat liver sinusoidal endothelial cell progenitor cells. *Gastroenterology* 2012; **143**: 1555-1563.e2 [PMID: 22902870 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2012.08.008]
- 54 **Parekkadan B**, van Poll D, Suganuma K, Carter EA, Berthiaume F, Tilles AW, Yarmush ML. Mesenchymal stem cell-derived molecules reverse fulminant hepatic failure. *PLoS One* 2007; **2**: e941 [PMID: 17895982 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0000941]
- 55 **van Poll D**, Parekkadan B, Cho CH, Berthiaume F, Nahmias Y, Tilles AW, Yarmush ML. Mesenchymal stem cell-derived molecules directly modulate hepatocellular death and regeneration in vitro and in vivo. *Hepatology* 2008; **47**: 1634-1643 [PMID: 18395843 DOI: 10.1002/hep.22236]
- 56 **Yu B**, Zhang X, Li X. Exosomes derived from mesenchymal stem cells. *Int J Mol Sci* 2014; **15**: 4142-4157 [PMID: 24608926 DOI: 10.3390/ijms15034142]
- 57 **Ha D**, Yang N, Nadithe V. Exosomes as therapeutic drug carriers and delivery vehicles across biological membranes: current perspectives and future challenges. *Acta Pharm Sin B* 2016; **6**: 287-296 [PMID: 27471669 DOI: 10.1016/j.apsb.2016.02.001]
- 58 **Théry C**, Zitvogel L, Amigorena S. Exosomes: composition, biogenesis and function. *Nat Rev Immunol* 2002; **2**: 569-579 [PMID: 12154376 DOI: 10.1038/nri855]
- 59 **Lötvall J**, Hill AF, Hochberg F, Buzás EI, Di Vizio D, Gardiner C, Gho YS, Kurochkin IV, Mathivanan S, Quesenberry P, Sahoo S, Tahara H, Wauben MH, Witwer KW, Théry C. Minimal experimental requirements for definition of extracellular vesicles and their functions: a position statement from the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles. *J Extracell Vesicles* 2014; **3**: 26913 [PMID: 25536934 DOI: 10.3402/jev.v3.26913]
- 60 **Maumus M**, Jorgensen C, Noël D. Mesenchymal stem cells in regenerative medicine applied to rheumatic diseases: role of secretome and exosomes. *Biochimie* 2013; **95**: 2229-2234 [PMID: 23685070 DOI: 10.1016/j.biochi.2013.04.017]
- 61 **Huang L**, Ma W, Ma Y, Feng D, Chen H, Cai B. Exosomes in mesenchymal stem cells, a new therapeutic strategy for

- cardiovascular diseases? *Int J Biol Sci* 2015; **11**: 238-245 [PMID: 25632267 DOI: 10.7150/ijbs.10725]
- 62 **Börger V**, Bremer M, Ferrer-Tur R, Gockeln L, Stambouli O, Becic A, Giebel B. Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cell-Derived Extracellular Vesicles and Their Potential as Novel Immunomodulatory Therapeutic Agents. *Int J Mol Sci* 2017; **18** [PMID: 28684664 DOI: 10.3390/ijms18071450]
- 63 **Tomiya T**, Yang GX, Zhao M, Zhang W, Tanaka H, Wang J, Leung PS, Okazaki K, He XS, Lu Q, Coppel RL, Bowls CL, Gershwin ME. The modulation of co-stimulatory molecules by circulating exosomes in primary biliary cirrhosis. *Cell Mol Immunol* 2017; **14**: 276-284 [PMID: 26388238 DOI: 10.1038/cmi.2015.86]
- 64 **Fornari F**, Ferracin M, Trerè D, Milazzo M, Marinelli S, Galassi M, Venerandi L, Pollutri D, Patrizi C, Borghi A, Foschi FG, Stefanini GF, Negrini M, Bolondi L, Gramantieri L. Circulating microRNAs, miR-939, miR-595, miR-519d and miR-494, Identify Cirrhotic Patients with HCC. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**: e0141448 [PMID: 26509672 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0141448]
- 65 **Maji S**, Matsuda A, Yan IK, Parasramka M, Patel T. Extracellular vesicles in liver diseases. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 2017; **312**: G194-G200 [PMID: 28039157 DOI: 10.1152/ajpgi.00216.2016]
- 66 **Szabo G**, Momen-Heravi F. Extracellular vesicles in liver disease and potential as biomarkers and therapeutic targets. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017; **14**: 455-466 [PMID: 28634412 DOI: 10.1038/nrgastro.2017.71]
- 67 **Nojima H**, Freeman CM, Schuster RM, Japtok L, Kleuser B, Edwards MJ, Gulbins E, Lentsch AB. Hepatocyte exosomes mediate liver repair and regeneration via sphingosine-1-phosphate. *J Hepatol* 2016; **64**: 60-68 [PMID: 26254847 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2015.07.030]
- 68 **Herrera MB**, Fonsato V, Gatti S, Deregibus MC, Sordi A, Cantarella D, Calogero R, Bussolati B, Tetta C, Camussi G. Human liver stem cell-derived microvesicles accelerate hepatic regeneration in hepatectomized rats. *J Cell Mol Med* 2010; **14**: 1605-1618 [PMID: 19650833 DOI: 10.1111/j.1582-4934.2009.00860.x]
- 69 **Fatima F**, Ekstrom K, Nazarenko I, Maugeri M, Valadi H, Hill AF, Camussi G, Nawaz M. Non-coding RNAs in Mesenchymal Stem Cell-Derived Extracellular Vesicles: Deciphering Regulatory Roles in Stem Cell Potency, Inflammatory Resolve, and Tissue Regeneration. *Front Genet* 2017; **8**: 161 [PMID: 29123544 DOI: 10.3389/fgene.2017.00161]
- 70 **Kim KM**, Abdelmohsen K, Mustapic M, Kapogiannis D, Gorospe M. RNA in extracellular vesicles. *Wiley Interdiscip Rev RNA* 2017; **8** [PMID: 28130830 DOI: 10.1002/wrna.1413]
- 71 **Nojima H**, Konishi T, Freeman CM, Schuster RM, Japtok L, Kleuser B, Edwards MJ, Gulbins E, Lentsch AB. Chemokine Receptors, CXCR1 and CXCR2, Differentially Regulate Exosome Release in Hepatocytes. *PLoS One* 2016; **11**: e0161443 [PMID: 27551720 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0161443]
- 72 **Hirsova P**, Ibrahim SH, Krishnan A, Verma VK, Bronk SF, Werneburg NW, Charlton MR, Shah VH, Malhi H, Gores GJ. Lipid-Induced Signaling Causes Release of Inflammatory Extracellular Vesicles From Hepatocytes. *Gastroenterology* 2016; **150**: 956-967 [PMID: 26764184 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2015.12.037]
- 73 **Lee YS**, Kim SY, Ko E, Lee JH, Yi HS, Yoo YJ, Je J, Suh SJ, Jung YK, Kim JH, Seo YS, Yim HJ, Jeong WI, Yeon JE, Um SH, Byun KS. Exosomes derived from palmitic acid-treated hepatocytes induce fibrotic activation of hepatic stellate cells. *Sci Rep* 2017; **7**: 3710 [PMID: 28623272 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-03389-2]
- 74 **Momen-Heravi F**, Saha B, Kodys K, Catalano D, Satishchandra A, Szabo G. Increased number of circulating exosomes and their microRNA cargos are potential novel biomarkers in alcoholic hepatitis. *J Transl Med* 2015; **13**: 261 [PMID: 26264599 DOI: 10.1186/s12967-015-0623-9]
- 75 **Momen-Heravi F**, Bala S, Kodys K, Szabo G. Exosomes derived from alcohol-treated hepatocytes horizontally transfer liver specific miRNA-122 and sensitize monocytes to LPS. *Sci Rep* 2015; **5**: 9991 [PMID: 25973575 DOI: 10.1038/srep09991]
- 76 **Devhare PB**, Sasaki R, Shrivastava S, Di Bisceglie AM, Ray R, Ray RB. Exosome-Mediated Intercellular Communication between Hepatitis C Virus-Infected Hepatocytes and Hepatic Stellate Cells. *J Virol* 2017; **91** [PMID: 28077652 DOI: 10.1128/JVI.02225-16]
- 77 **Bukong TN**, Momen-Heravi F, Kodys K, Bala S, Szabo G. Exosomes from hepatitis C infected patients transmit HCV infection and contain replication competent viral RNA in complex with Ago2-miR122-HSP90. *PLoS Pathog* 2014; **10**: e1004424 [PMID: 25275643 DOI: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1004424]
- 78 **Seo W**, Eun HS, Kim SY, Yi HS, Lee YS, Park SH, Jang MJ, Jo E, Kim SC, Han YM, Park KG, Jeong WI. Exosome-mediated activation of toll-like receptor 3 in stellate cells stimulates interleukin-17 production by  $\gamma\delta$  T cells in liver fibrosis. *Hepatology* 2016; **64**: 616-631 [PMID: 27178735 DOI: 10.1002/hep.28644]
- 79 **Charrier A**, Chen R, Chen L, Kemper S, Hattori T, Takigawa M, Brigstock DR. Exosomes mediate intercellular transfer of pro-fibrogenic connective tissue growth factor (CCN2) between hepatic stellate cells, the principal fibrotic cells in the liver. *Surgery* 2014; **156**: 548-555 [PMID: 24882759 DOI: 10.1016/j.surg.2014.04.014]
- 80 **Chen L**, Chen R, Kemper S, Charrier A, Brigstock DR. Suppression of fibrogenic signaling in hepatic stellate cells by Twist1-dependent microRNA-214 expression: Role of exosomes in horizontal transfer of Twist1. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 2015; **309**: G491-G499 [PMID: 26229009 DOI: 10.1152/ajpgi.00140.2015]
- 81 **Chen L**, Chen R, Velazquez VM, Brigstock DR. Fibrogenic Signaling Is Suppressed in Hepatic Stellate Cells through Targeting of Connective Tissue Growth Factor (CCN2) by Cellular or Exosomal MicroRNA-199a-5p. *Am J Pathol* 2016; **186**: 2921-2933 [PMID: 27662798 DOI: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2016.07.011]
- 82 **DeLeve LD**. Liver sinusoidal endothelial cells in hepatic fibrosis. *Hepatology* 2015; **61**: 1740-1746 [PMID: 25131509 DOI: 10.1002/hep.27376]
- 83 **Wang R**, Ding Q, Yaqoob U, de Assuncao TM, Verma VK, Hirsova P, Cao S, Mukhopadhyay D, Huebert RC, Shah VH. Exosome Adherence and Internalization by Hepatic Stellate Cells Triggers Sphingosine 1-Phosphate-dependent Migration. *J Biol Chem* 2015; **290**: 30684-30696 [PMID: 26534962 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M115.671735]
- 84 **Ichinohe N**, Ishii M, Tanimizu N, Kon J, Yoshioka Y, Ochiya T, Mizuguchi T, Hirata K, Mitaka T. Transplantation of Thy1+ Cells Accelerates Liver Regeneration by Enhancing the Growth of Small Hepatocyte-Like Progenitor Cells via IL17RB Signaling. *Stem Cells* 2017; **35**: 920-931 [PMID: 27925343 DOI: 10.1002/stem.2548]
- 85 **Chen L**, Brigstock DR. Integrins and heparan sulfate proteoglycans on hepatic stellate cells (HSC) are novel receptors for HSC-derived exosomes. *FEBS Lett* 2016; **590**: 4263-4274 [PMID: 27714787 DOI: 10.1002/1873-3468.12448]
- 86 **Fiore E**, Malvicini M, Bayo J, Peixoto E, Atorrasagasti C, Sierra R, Rodríguez M, Gómez Bustillo S, García MG, Aquino JB, Mazzolini G. Involvement of hepatic macrophages in the antifibrotic effect of IGF-I-overexpressing mesenchymal stromal cells. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2016; **7**: 172 [PMID: 27876093 DOI: 10.1186/s13287-016-0424-y]
- 87 **Ramachandran P**, Iredale JP. Macrophages: central regulators of hepatic fibrogenesis and fibrosis resolution. *J Hepatol* 2012; **56**: 1417-1419 [PMID: 22314426 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2011.10.026]
- 88 **Saha B**, Momen-Heravi F, Furi I, Kodys K, Catalano D, Gangopadhyay A, Haraszi R, Satishchandra A, Iracheta-Velvet A, Adejumo A, Shaffer SA, Szabo G. Extracellular vesicles from mice with alcoholic liver disease carry a distinct protein cargo and induce macrophage activation through heat shock protein 90. *Hepatology* 2018; **67**: 1986-2000 [PMID: 29251792 DOI: 10.1002/hep.29732]
- 89 **Verma VK**, Li H, Wang R, Hirsova P, Mushref M, Liu Y, Cao S, Contreras PC, Malhi H, Kamath PS, Gores GJ, Shah VH. Alcohol stimulates macrophage activation through caspase-dependent hepatocyte derived release of CD40L containing extracellular vesicles. *J Hepatol* 2016; **64**: 651-660 [PMID: 26632633 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2016.03.011]



- 10.1016/j.jhep.2015.11.020]
- 90 **Saha B**, Momen-Heravi F, Kodys K, Szabo G. MicroRNA Cargo of Extracellular Vesicles from Alcohol-exposed Monocytes Signals Naive Monocytes to Differentiate into M2 Macrophages. *J Biol Chem* 2016; **291**: 149-159 [PMID: 26527689 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M115.694133]
- 91 **Saha B**, Bruneau JC, Kodys K, Szabo G. Alcohol-induced miR-27a regulates differentiation and M2 macrophage polarization of normal human monocytes. *J Immunol* 2015; **194**: 3079-3087 [PMID: 25716995 DOI: 10.4049/jimmunol.1402190]
- 92 **Wu HH**, Lee OK. Exosomes from mesenchymal stem cells induce the conversion of hepatocytes into progenitor oval cells. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2017; **8**: 117 [PMID: 28535778 DOI: 10.1186/s13287-017-0560-z]
- 93 **Du Y**, Li D, Han C, Wu H, Xu L, Zhang M, Zhang J, Chen X. Exosomes from Human-Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (hiPSC-MSCs) Protect Liver against Hepatic Ischemia/ Reperfusion Injury via Activating Sphingosine Kinase and Sphingosine-1-Phosphate Signaling Pathway. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 2017; **43**: 611-625 [PMID: 28934733 DOI: 10.1159/000480533]
- 94 **Bruno S**, Grange C, Deregibus MC, Calogero RA, Saviozzi S, Collino F, Morando L, Busca A, Falda M, Bussolati B, Tetta C, Camussi G. Mesenchymal stem cell-derived microvesicles protect against acute tubular injury. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 2009; **20**: 1053-1067 [PMID: 19389847 DOI: 10.1681/ASN.2008070798]
- 95 **Akyurekli C**, Le Y, Richardson RB, Fergusson D, Tay J, Allan DS. A systematic review of preclinical studies on the therapeutic potential of mesenchymal stromal cell-derived microvesicles. *Stem Cell Rev* 2015; **11**: 150-160 [PMID: 25091427 DOI: 10.1007/s12015-014-9545-9]
- 96 **Li T**, Yan Y, Wang B, Qian H, Zhang X, Shen L, Wang M, Zhou Y, Zhu W, Li W, Xu W. Exosomes derived from human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells alleviate liver fibrosis. *Stem Cells Dev* 2013; **22**: 845-854 [PMID: 23002959 DOI: 10.1089/scd.2012.0395]
- 97 **Chen L**, Xiang B, Wang X, Xiang C. Exosomes derived from human menstrual blood-derived stem cells alleviate fulminant hepatic failure. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2017; **8**: 9 [PMID: 28115012 DOI: 10.1186/s13287-016-0453-6]
- 98 **Haga H**, Yan IK, Takahashi K, Matsuda A, Patel T. Extracellular Vesicles from Bone Marrow-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells Improve Survival from Lethal Hepatic Failure in Mice. *Stem Cells Transl Med* 2017; **6**: 1262-1272 [PMID: 28213967 DOI: 10.1002/sctm.16-0226]
- 99 **Tan CY**, Lai RC, Wong W, Dan YY, Lim SK, Ho HK. Mesenchymal stem cell-derived exosomes promote hepatic regeneration in drug-induced liver injury models. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2014; **5**: 76 [PMID: 24915963 DOI: 10.1186/sct465]
- 100 **Yan Y**, Jiang W, Tan Y, Zou S, Zhang H, Mao F, Gong A, Qian H, Xu W. hucMSC Exosome-Derived GPX1 Is Required for the Recovery of Hepatic Oxidant Injury. *Mol Ther* 2017; **25**: 465-479 [PMID: 28089078 DOI: 10.1016/j.ymthe.2016.11.019]
- 101 **Nong K**, Wang W, Niu X, Hu B, Ma C, Bai Y, Wu B, Wang Y, Ai K. Hepatoprotective effect of exosomes from human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived mesenchymal stromal cells against hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury in rats. *Cytotherapy* 2016; **18**: 1548-1559 [PMID: 27592404 DOI: 10.1016/j.jcyt.2016.08.002]
- 102 **Armstrong JP**, Holme MN, Stevens MM. Re-Engineering Extracellular Vesicles as Smart Nanoscale Therapeutics. *ACS Nano* 2017; **11**: 69-83 [PMID: 28068069 DOI: 10.1021/acsnano.6b07607]
- 103 **Dilnawaz F**, Acharya S, Sahoo SK. Recent trends of nanomedicinal approaches in clinics. *Int J Pharm* 2018; **538**: 263-278 [PMID: 29339248 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2018.01.016]
- 104 **Lou G**, Yang Y, Liu F, Ye B, Chen Z, Zheng M, Liu Y. MiR-122 modification enhances the therapeutic efficacy of adipose tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells against liver fibrosis. *J Cell Mol Med* 2017; **21**: 2963-2973 [PMID: 28544786 DOI: 10.1111/jcmm.13208]
- 105 **Zeng C**, Wang YL, Xie C, Sang Y, Li TJ, Zhang M, Wang R, Zhang Q, Zheng L, Zhuang SM. Identification of a novel TGF- $\beta$ -miR-122-fibronectin 1/serum response factor signaling cascade and its implication in hepatic fibrogenesis. *Oncotarget* 2015; **6**: 12224-12233 [PMID: 25909171 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.3652]
- 106 **Qu Y**, Zhang Q, Cai X, Li F, Ma Z, Xu M, Lu L. Exosomes derived from miR-181-5p-modified adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells prevent liver fibrosis via autophagy activation. *J Cell Mol Med* 2017; **21**: 2491-2502 [PMID: 28382720 DOI: 10.1111/jcmm.13170]
- 107 **Chen L**, Lu FB, Chen DZ, Wu JL, Hu ED, Xu LM, Zheng MH, Li H, Huang Y, Jin XY, Gong YW, Lin Z, Wang XD, Chen YP. BMSCs-derived miR-223-containing exosomes contribute to liver protection in experimental autoimmune hepatitis. *Mol Immunol* 2018; **93**: 38-46 [PMID: 29145157 DOI: 10.1016/j.molimm.2017.11.008]

**P- Reviewer:** Miloso M, Musumeci G, Scarfi S    **S- Editor:** Wang XJ  
**L- Editor:** A    **E- Editor:** Huang Y





Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**  
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA  
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242  
Fax: +1-925-223-8243  
E-mail: [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
Help Desk: <http://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>



ISSN 1007-9327

