

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 82518

Title: Recovery from Bell's palsy after treatment using uncultured umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells: A case report

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06335109

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Chief Physician, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-12-23 06:31

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-09 08:26

Review time: 17 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Editor, Thank you for inviting me to comment on the manuscript titled 'Recovery from Bell's palsy after treatment using uncultured umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells: A case report.' The authors reported treating a patient with Bell's palsy, classified as moderately severe dysfunction, using uncultured umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells. After a follow-up of 32 mo, the paralysis was cured, and there was no recurrence. This method could be a new treatment option to replace existing treatments for Bell's palsy. Here are my comments and questions. •

Major issue. 1. In this case study, the patient suffered from Bell's palsy for seven years before being treated with uncultured UC-MSC transplantation. I want the authors to provide a careful medical history of the patient before treatment, including the possible etiology of Bell's palsy. Complete head and neck, otological examination, and radiologic studies are paramount, which can help in clinically determining whether the palsy of the facial nerve is due to central causes like stroke or is peripheral. I hope the authors will also provide it. 2. There were no photos of this patient's face before MSC treatment, and although the authors mention in the article that the patient was reluctant to provide them, this is an essential issue in a case report. 3. The photos provided by the author after the patient received the treatment did work well, 'Left eye closure and eyebrow location' and 'the patient's asymmetrical lips' were taken only after three months and 22 months, which are the exact times, the rest of the photos are not consistent in time. I would like to know why. •

Minor issue. 1. In this case study, the authors state, "We injected the injection solution evenly over the left side of the patient's face. 0.25 mL (a total of 16 injections were performed)." Although the



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authors mention evenly over the left side of the patient's face, I would have preferred a facial diagram indicating the exact injection site. The depth of injection should also be indicated. 2. Please add whether the patient experienced a short-term local facial reaction and a systemic reaction after receiving the injection treatment, for example, within 1 hour or one day. 3. I would like the authors to provide photos of uncultured UC-MSCs injections. Here is an additional review. I would like the authors to add to the discussion section to elaborate on why uncultured cells should be used. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of the uncultured and passaged cells? It would make the discussion section more comprehensive if these were added.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06464407

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Physician, Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-06 04:24

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-14 11:38

Review time: 8 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting case that reported an effective and safe treatment for a middle female patient with Bell's palsy by uncultured umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells. It has some certain clinical promotion significance in the future. However, it has some limitations below: 1. As a new clinical treatment trial for the patient, it should be carried out by the approval of the hospital's ethics committee, not just the patient's therapy consent. 2. As an allogeneic injection, is it possible to cause allergic reactions in patients and how to prevent it? 3. Did this patient receive this treatment alone, without other ones or medications? 4. Whether the Bell's palsy in this patient was caused by immune system diseases, such as systemic lupus erythematosus? 5. It is suggested that the discussion part start with the treatment of this patient and discuss it combined with the treatment of her.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

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Reviewer's code: 06402948

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-06 17:33

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-18 21:40

Review time: 12 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

All the comments for editor and authors will be find in the file attached at the end

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05818012

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-21

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-08 02:11

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-20 13:07

Review time: 12 Days and 10 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this article, the authors used uncultured mesenchymal stem cells to treat a patient with facial paralysis. Although the author has done a lot of work on the content of the article, I would like to make some important suggestions on some key issues to help the author improve the quality of the current manuscript. 1. About the section of 'Isolation and quality evaluation of UC-MSCs'. Make sure that you are using mesenchymal stem cells or mixed cell components dominated by mesenchymal stem cells for clinical treatment. Please provide details of the preparation process of MSC. 2. Please provide additional flow analysis results for identification of mesenchymal stem cells.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06413201

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

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Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-20 15:04

Review time: 10 Days and 20 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Elaborate the following sentence in the introduction section-"long term side effects of Bell's palsy can be *fatal". Also mention the tissue depth at which these injections of uncultured UC-MSCs were given to the patient. However, the authors have very nicely managed the case with the concept of using uncultured UC-MSC in view of their reduced capacity for regeneration after being cultured in-vitro; but, extreme caution is required as there is a risk of transmission of infections. Further large sample, multi centric, population studies are required to confirm reproducibility of results in various ethnic groups.