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Commentary

Unleashing the Potential of Autologous Mesenchymal Stromal Cells in Post-Traumatic Syringomyelia

Mercedes Zurita*

Department of Science, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

DESCRIPTION

Post Traumatic Syringomyelia (PTS) is a debilitating condition that can occur as a result of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI). PTS is characterized by the formation of fluid-filled cavities or syrinxes within the spinal cord, leading to neurological deficits and progressive loss of motor and sensory functions. Despite advances in surgical techniques and pharmacological interventions, the management of PTS remains challenging. In recent years, cell therapy with autologous Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (MSCs) has emerged as a potential therapeutic strategy for PTS. This commentary aims to discuss the rationale and potential benefits of cell therapy using autologous MSCs in PTS and present a conclusion on its effectiveness as a treatment option. Cell therapy has gained considerable attention in regenerative medicine due to its potential to promote tissue repair and modulate the inflammatory response. MSCs, a type of adult stem cell, possess unique properties that make them an attractive candidate for cell-based therapies. Autologous MSCs, derived from the patient's own tissue, offer several advantages, including reduced risk of immune rejection and ethical concerns associated with the use of embryonic stem cells. MSCs exert their therapeutic effects through a multifaceted mechanism of action. They possess immunomodulatory properties, suppressing inflammation and modulating the immune response in the injured spinal cord. Additionally, MSCs secrete various trophic factors and cytokines that promote neuronal survival, angiogenesis, and tissue regeneration. Moreover, MSCs have the ability to differentiate into multiple cell types, including neurons and glial cells, providing a potential source for replacing damaged cells within the syrinx. Preclinical studies investigating the efficacy of cell therapy with autologous MSCs in PTS have shown promising results. Animal models of SCI-induced syringomyelia treated with MSCs have demonstrated reduced cavity formation, improved motor function, and enhanced tissue preservation. These effects are attributed to the immunomodulatory properties of MSCs, their ability to secrete neurotrophic factors, and the promotion of endogenous repair mechanisms. Limited clinical data on the use of autologous MSCs in PTS are available. However, early-phase clinical trials and case studies have shown encouraging outcomes. These studies have reported improvements in sensory and motor function, reduction in pain, and stabilization or regression of the syrinx size following MSC transplantation. The safety profile of autologous MSC therapy has also been favorable, with no significant adverse events reported. Despite the promising results, several challenges and considerations need to be addressed for the widespread implementation of cell therapy in PTS. The optimization of cell isolation, expansion, and delivery methods is crucial to ensure therapeutic efficacy. Standardization of protocols, dose determination, and timing of intervention are essential for consistent outcomes. Long-term follow-up is necessary to evaluate the durability of the therapeutic effects and assess potential complications, such as tumor formation or immune reactions.

CONCLUSION

Cell therapy with autologous MSCs holds great promise as a therapeutic intervention for post-traumatic syringomyelia. Preclinical studies and early-phase clinical trials have provided evidence of the safety and potential efficacy of this approach. The immunomodulatory properties, regenerative potential, and ability to promote tissue repair make autologous MSCs an attractive candidate for PTS treatment. However, further well-designed clinical trials with larger sample sizes, standardized protocols, and longer follow-up periods are needed to establish the efficacy and safety of this therapeutic modality conclusively. Additionally, collaborative efforts between researchers, clinicians, and regulatory authorities are essential to overcome the challenges associated with cell therapy direction for its integration into routine clinical practice. With continued research and refinement, cell therapy with autologous MSCs has the potential to revolutionize the management of post-traumatic syringomyelia, improving the quality of life for patients affected by this debilitating condition.

Correspondence to: Mercedes Zurita, Department of Science, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain, E-mail: Merce76@gmail.com

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