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Clinical Efficacy of Intra-articular Mesenchymal
Stromal Cells for the Treatment of Knee
Osteoarthritis:

A double blinded, prospective, randomized, controlled
clinical trial.

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Disclosures

I (and/or my co-authors) have something to disclose.

- DePuy, A Johnson & Johnson Company: Research support
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- Mitek and DePuy: Paid consultant; Paid presenter or speaker
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Introduction: Injectable Cell Based Therapy

- Stem cell-based therapies have emerged as possible disease modifying treatments with chondrogenic potential.
- Multiple level 1 studies support the use of isolated stem cells for OA symptoms.^{5,6}
 - However, processing isolated stem cells often requires multiple weeks and commercial laboratories.⁶
- Stromal Vascular Fraction (SVF) provides many of the benefits of stem cell therapy without the need for multiple clinic visits or special laboratories.



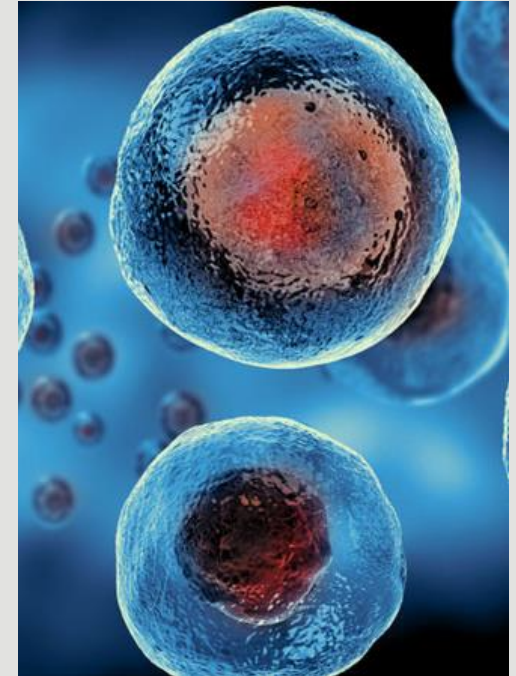
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Introduction: Stromal Vascular Fraction Evidence

- SVF is collected from adipose tissue and consists of a heterogeneous mixture of cells including stromal and vascular progenitor cells.⁷
- Multiple studies have demonstrated the efficacy of SVF for knee OA symptom management.
 - Improve knee OA symptoms for 2-24 months.⁸⁻⁹
 - Decrease chondral defect size.¹⁰
 - Minimal adverse effects.⁹
- However, these results have not been assessed in a randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled trial.



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MSC's from Adipose and Bone Marrow

Flow-Cytometry for MSC's

- CD45+ means hematopoietic (blood-derived)
- CD45- means non-hematopoietic (not blood)
- CD34+ means 'progenitor' (able to proliferate)
- CD34- means non-progenitor (mature, not able to proliferate)
- Target population is CD45-/CD34+
 - Non-hematopoietic progenitor cells
 - Includes the MSC's with other CD45-/CD34+ cells

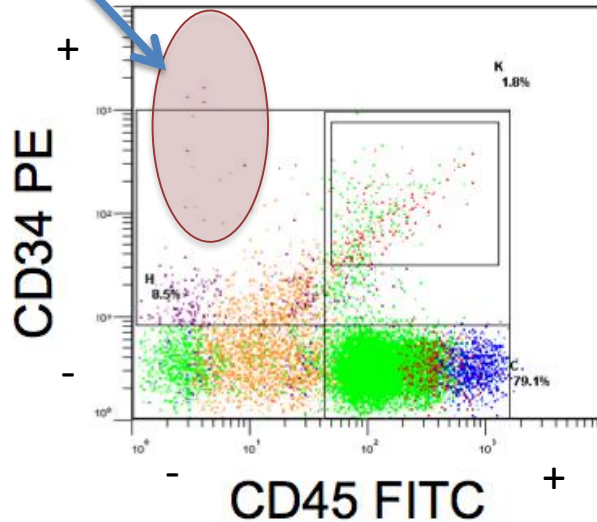
Flow Cytometry Characterization

CD45-/CD34+ (MSC's)

CD45-/CD34+

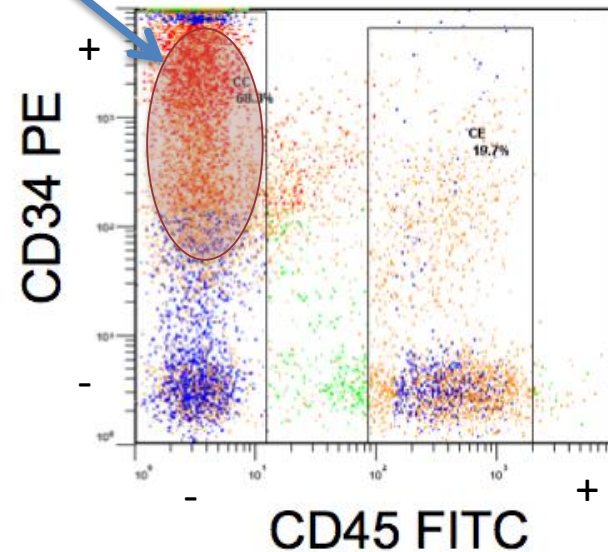
CD45-/CD34+

CD34/CD45 Phenotyping



Bone Marrow Aspirate

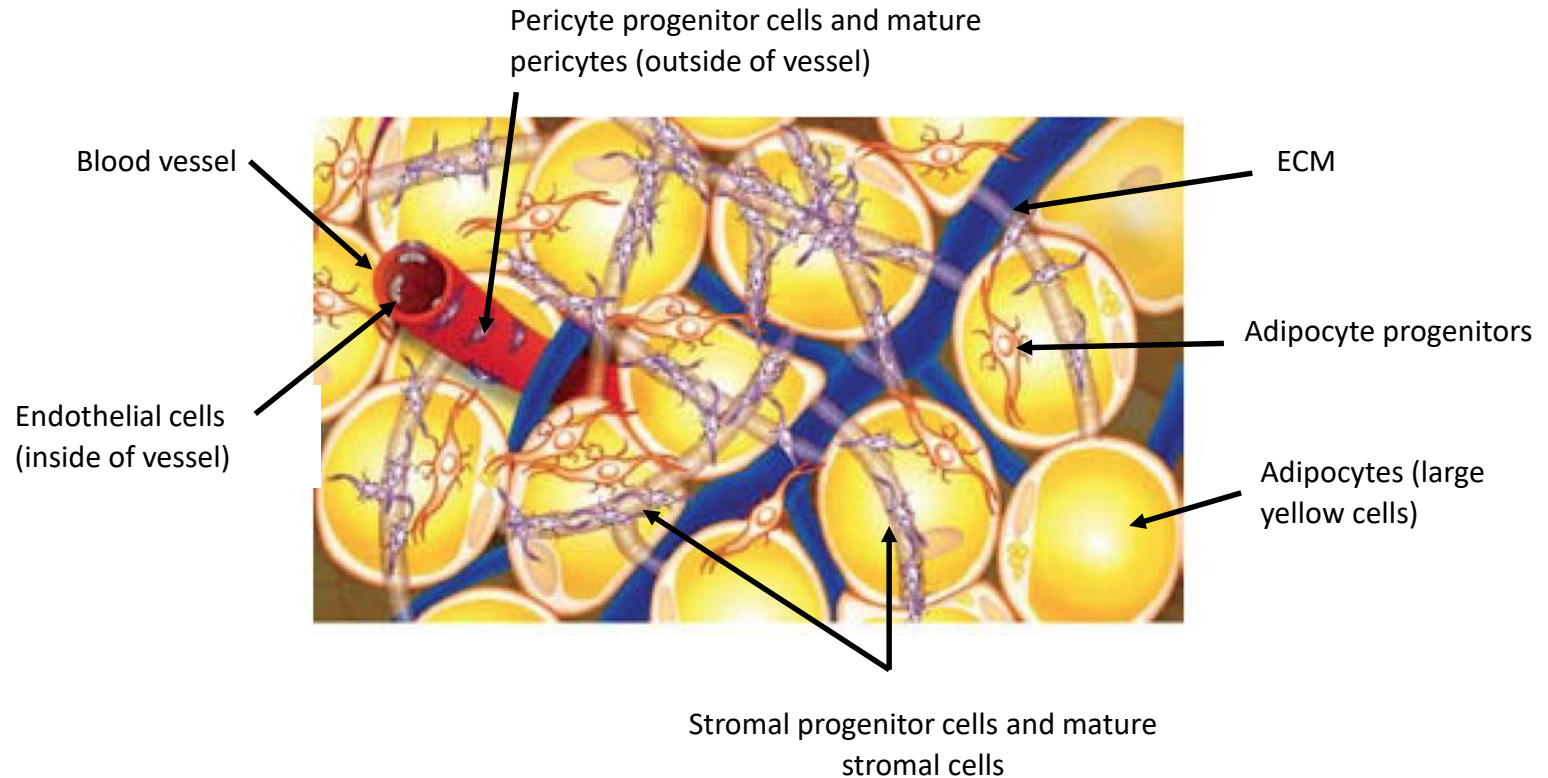
CD34/CD45 Phenotyping



Adipose SVF

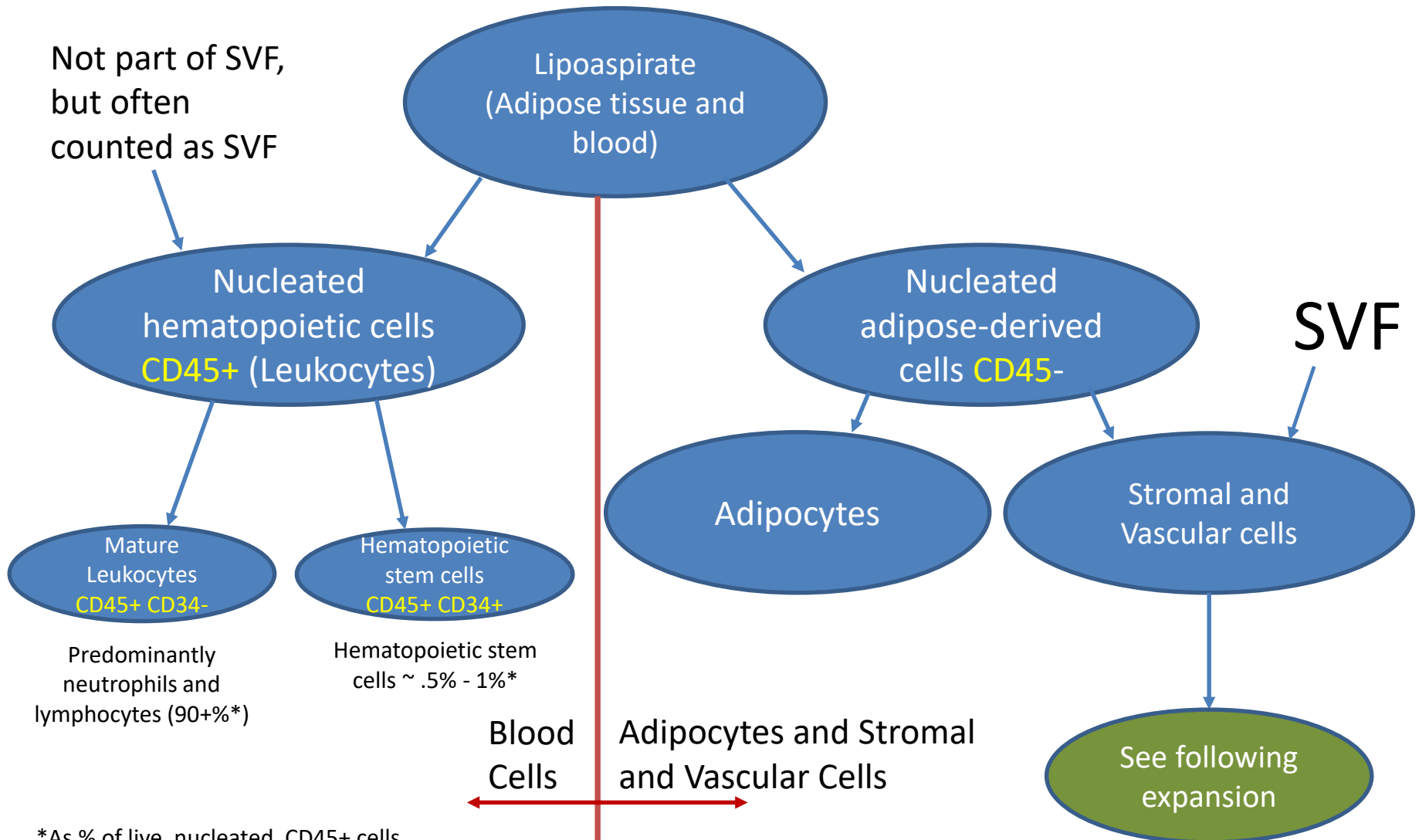
Each colored dot is a nucleated cell

Adipose Tissue Composition



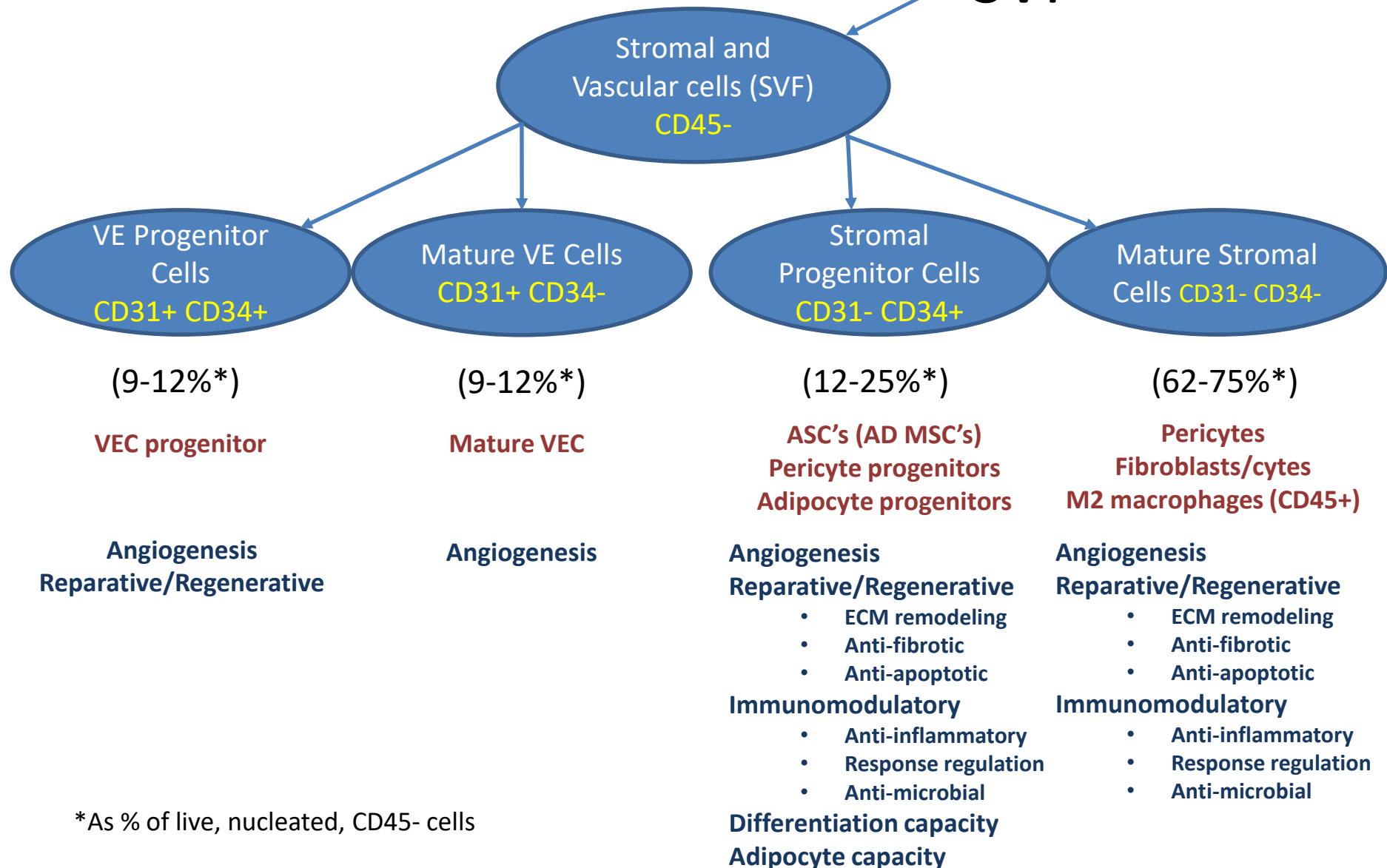
Adapted from Alderman,D, Alexander, R.W.: JOP (2011) Vol. 3

Separation of Lipoaspirate into SVF and Blood Fractions (CD45+ vs CD45-)



SVF Expansion (CD45-)

SVF



Purpose

- Primary Purpose
 - Evaluate the efficacy of intra-articular SVF injections at 6 months, compared to placebo injection.
- Secondary Purpose
 - Evaluate the efficacy of intra-articular SVF injections at 12 months, compared to placebo injection.
 - Evaluate the effects of SVF injections on articular cartilage at 6 and 12 months post injection.



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Methods

- Multi-site (3), randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial.
- A total of 39 patients with symptomatic knee OA were enrolled and randomized to the following groups:
 - High dose SVF: 30 million SVF cells
 - Low dose SVF: 15 million SVF cells
 - Placebo: No cells

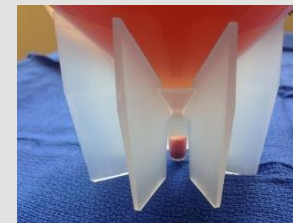
Knee Function and Cartilage Assessment:

- Pre-injection, 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months 12 months post-injection
 - Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) Questionnaire
 - MRI analysis of knee cartilage thickness (Pre-injection, 6 months, 12 months)

SVF Collection, Processing, Injection

SVF cells were collected, processed and injected at the same clinic visit (< 2 hr).

1. Adipose tissue was collected from the abdomen under local anesthetic.
2. The adipose tissue was processed in the GID SVF-2 device under sterile conditions.
3. The appropriate dose was created in a 5 cc syringe and sterilely injected into the knee.
4. Participants were advised to maintain only light activity for the first three weeks after injection.



Patient Characteristics

	Treatment Group			
Parameter	Placebo	Low Dose	High Dose	Total
Age years	57.1 ± 9.1	60.5 ± 7.9	59.5 ± 11.7	59.0 ± 9.9
BMI	27.1 ± 2.7	27.6 ± 4.1	28.8 ± 4.3	27.8 ± 3.9
Female % (n)	53.8% (7)	69.2% (9)	46.2% (6)	56.4% (22)
Male % (n)	46.2% (6)	30.8% (4)	53.8% (7)	43.6% (17)
KL Grade II % (n)	30.8% (4)	30.8% (4)	30.8% (4)	30.8% (12)
KL Grade III % (n)	69.2% (9)	69.2% (9)	69.2% (9)	69.2% (27)

No significant difference in characteristics between treatment groups.

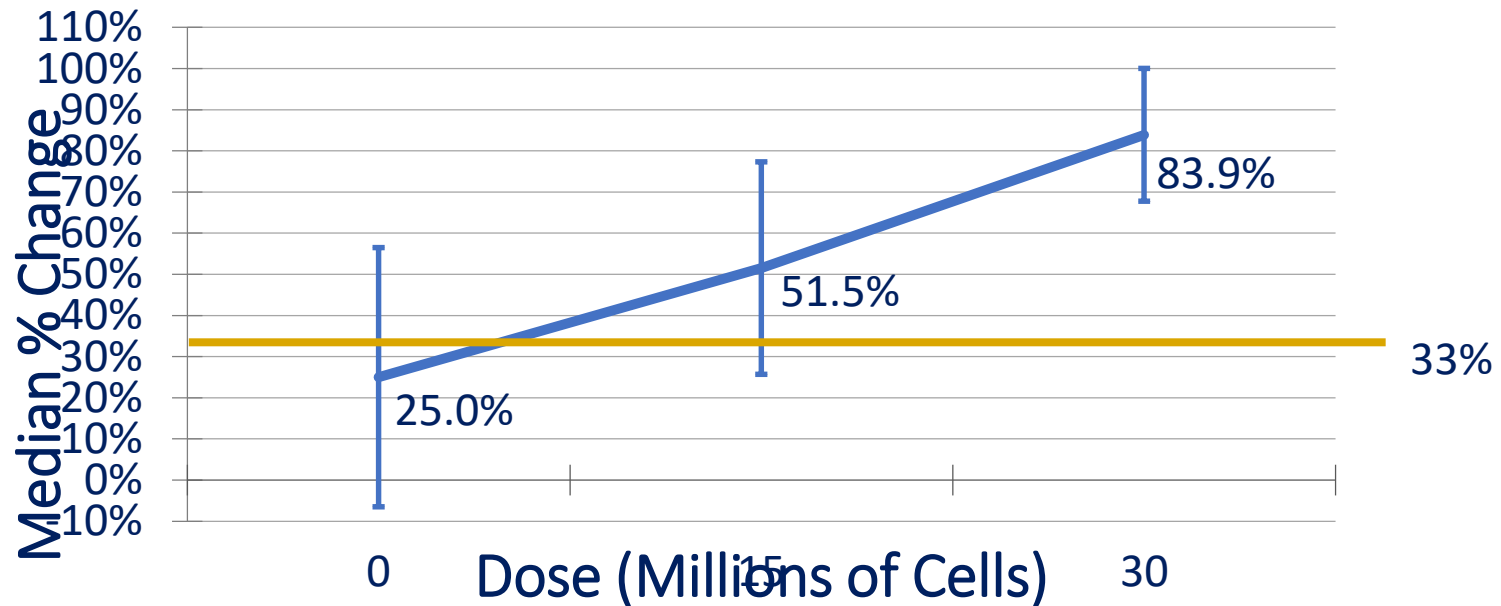


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Results: 6-Months Efficacy



There was a dose dependent improvement in knee OA symptoms 6 months after treatment.

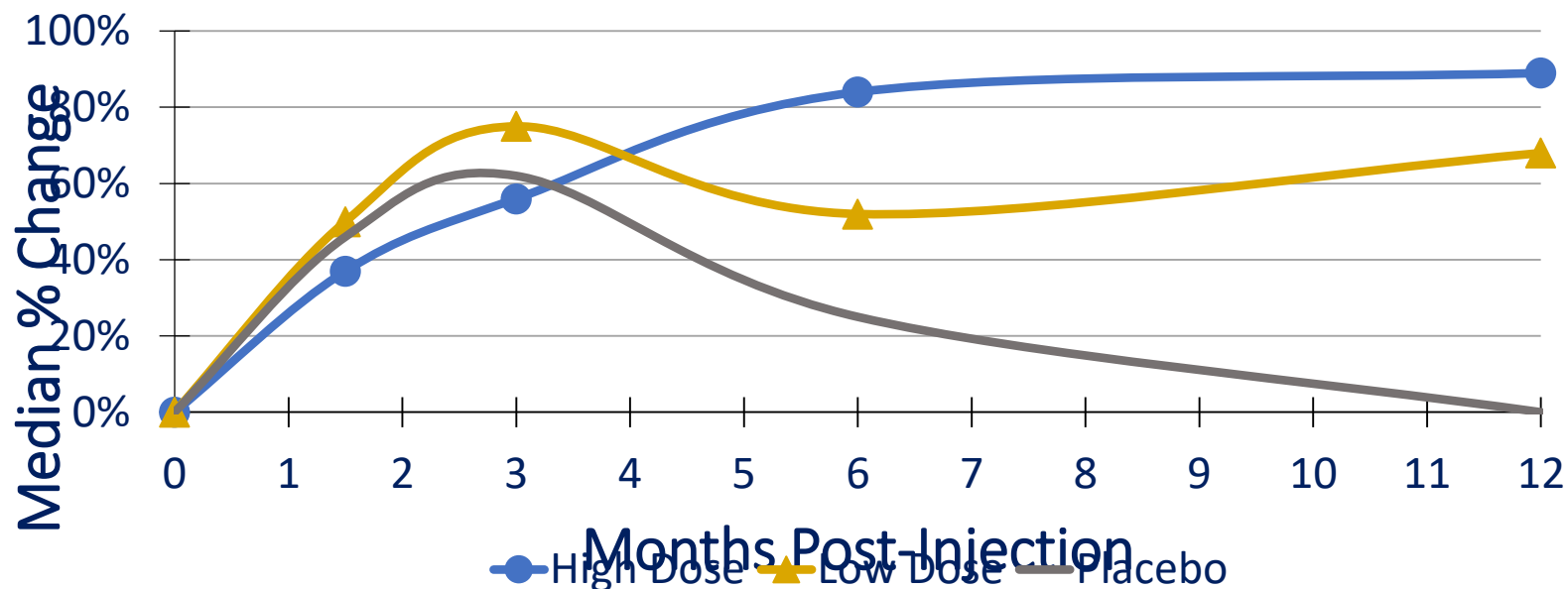


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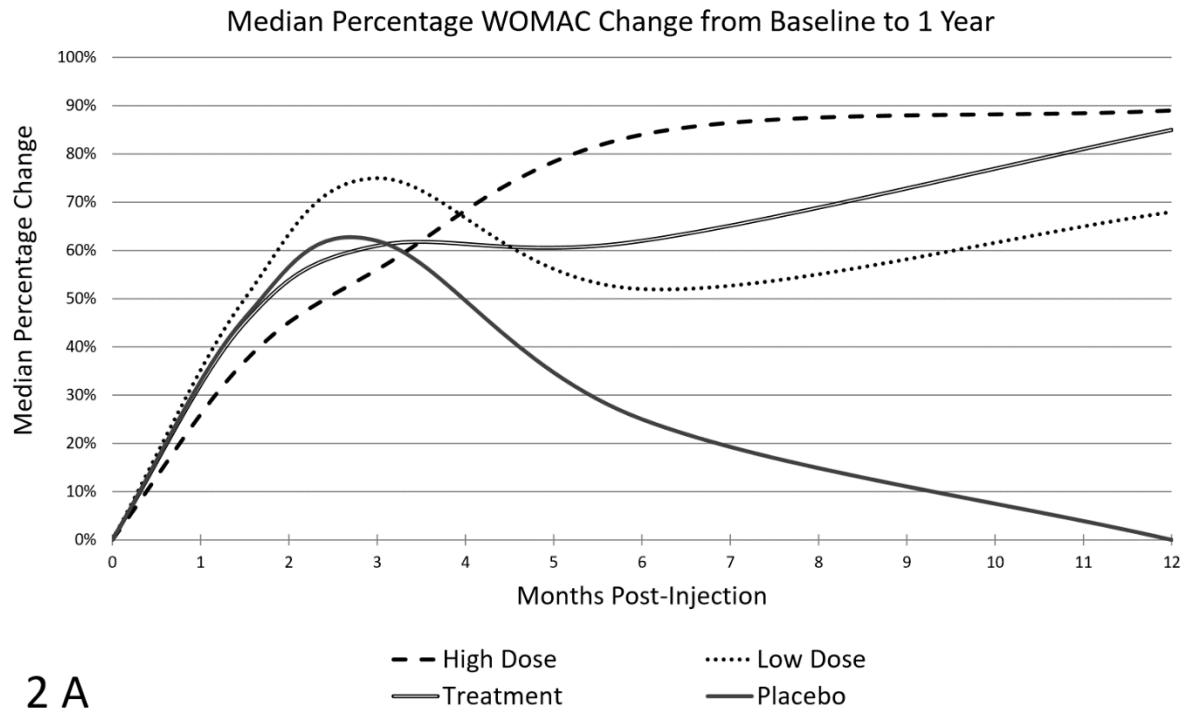


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Results: Change in Knee Function Over Time



Both treatment groups experienced significantly better symptom improvement at 6 & 12 months ($p < 0.01$)



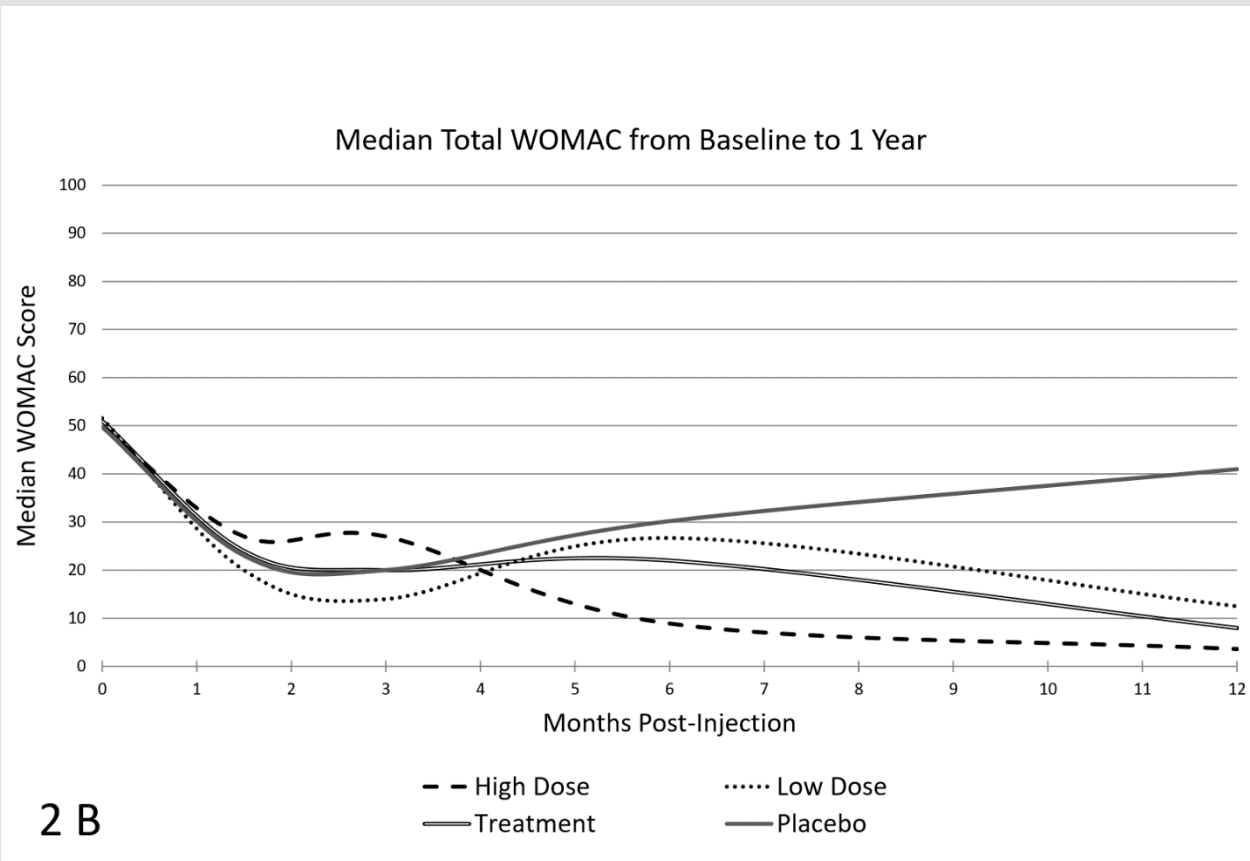




Table 4. Changes in Cartilage from Baseline to 6 Months using MRI

Group	Number of lesions	Cartilage Loss		<u>Outerbridge</u> Classification	
		Baseline Mean (mm)	Mean Change at 6 months (mm)	Baseline Median (range)	Median Change at 6 Months
All subjects	60	12.6	0	3 (1 – 4)	0
Treatment Group	46	11.5	-0.2	3 (1 – 4)	0
Placebo Group	14	16.3	0.5	4 (1 – 4)	0
Responders (>MCID)	38	13.2	0.2	3 (1 – 4)	0
Non-responders (<MCID)	22	11.6	-0.4	3 (1 – 4)	0

MCID: Minimal Clinically Important Difference



Results: Cartilage and Adverse Effects

- At 6 month and 1 year follow-up, there was no visible quantifiable changes in knee cartilage thickness by MRI.
 - No significant difference between groups.
- At 1 year follow-up there were there were no signs of:
 - heterotopic ossification
 - neoplastic growth (benign or malignant)
- No serious adverse effects were reported.
 - One patient experienced aseptic knee swelling after a high dose SVF injection.



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Conclusion

- SVF cells can be collected, processed and injected intra-articularly at one clinic visit.
- SVF injections are relatively safe with minimal adverse effects.
- SVF injections can significantly decrease knee OA symptoms and pain at 6 months and 1 year, compared to placebo.
- SVF injections can delay progression to the need for TKA or potentially provide an alternative to TKA.
- The primary effects of SVF on articular cartilage are yet to be quantified.



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Osteochondral Transplant



■ Fresh Allograft

■ Garrett

- 94% good & excellent, 17 patients, femoral OCD's, 3.2 yrs

■ Bugbee et al

- 79% good & excellent, 69 patients, femoral OCD's, 5.2 yrs

■ Gross et al, femoral traumatic lesions

- 95% survival 5yrs, 85% survival 10yrs

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■ Pros

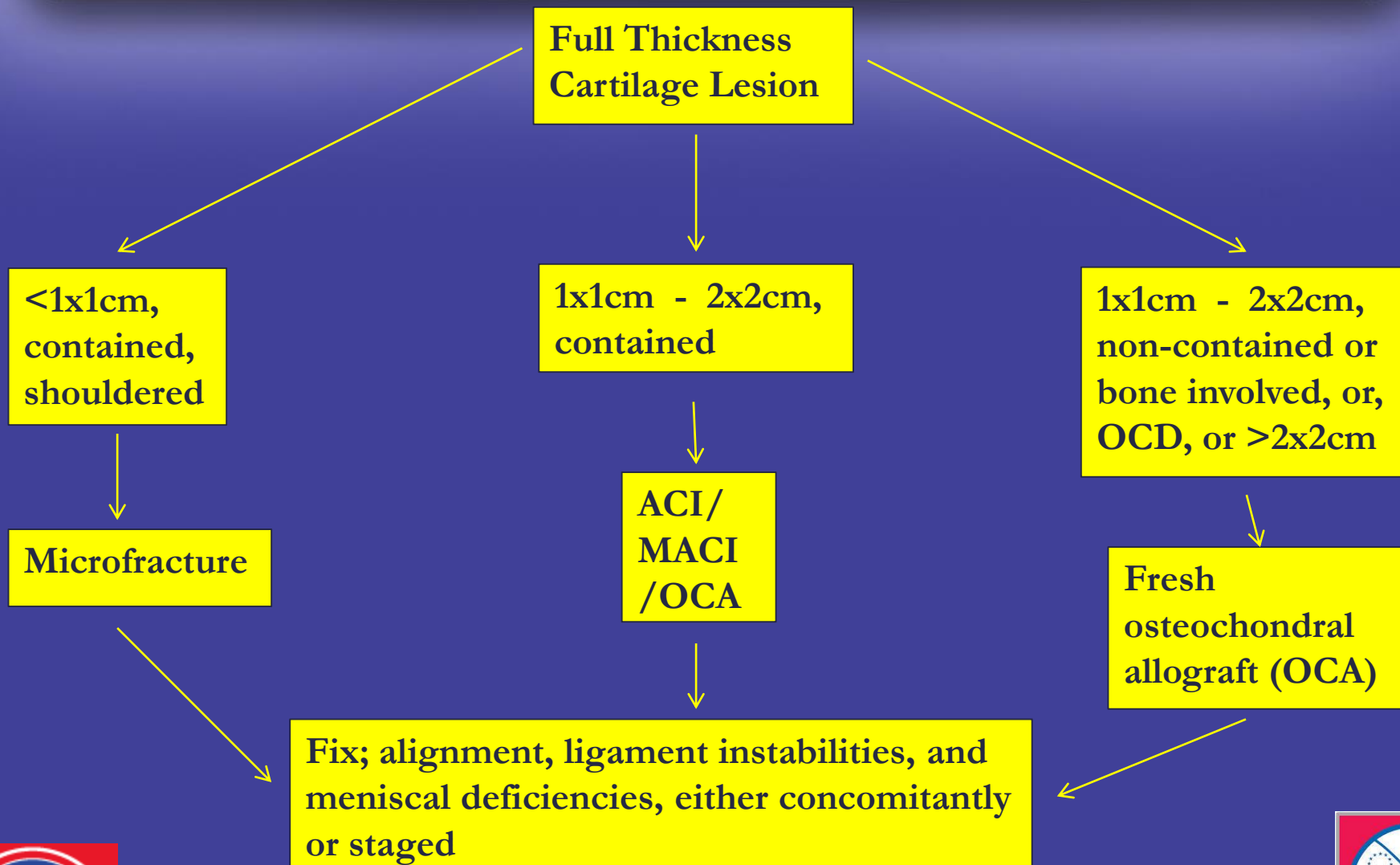
- Bone to bone healing
- Hyaline cartilage viability
- No donor sites issues
- Composite graft
- Salvage option

■ Cons

- Sizing
- Procurement
- Availability
- High cost
- Disease transmission
- Immunologic issues
- Durability
- “Burn bridges”

- Full thickness articular cartilage defects can be repaired with multiple different techniques
 - All showing significant improvement in outcomes
 - No consensus on which technique is superior

- **Make a Mental Checklist for chondral lesion:**
 - **Size:**
 - Smaller better, Larger worse
 - **Location:**
 - Higher contact area worse then low contact area
 - **Containment:**
 - Contained better then non-contained
 - **Shoulders:**
 - Shouldered better then non-shouldered
 - **Bone involvement and depth of involvement:**
 - Edema, cysts, surface osteophytes, OCD
 - **Patient H&P**
 - Age, activity, expectations, traumatic vs degenerative
 - Alignment and ligament stability





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