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Understanding Communication Between Cellular Stromal Vascular Fraction (cSVF), Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC), Pericytes, Blood Derivatives (HD PRP): Mechanisms in Inflammation and Immune Modulation

Robert W. Alexander[1,2,3,4*] and Peter A. Everts[5,6,7]

[1]Global Alliance of Regenerative Medicine(GARM)

[2]Institute Of Regenerative Medicine & Surgery

[3](IRMS) Hamilton, MT 59840

[4]Fellow, International College of Surgeons

[5]Professor, University of Queesland Medical School

[6]Professor, Max Planck University (San Paulo,Brazil)

[7]International Regenerative Medicine Experts Society (ARMES, Greece)

[*]**Corresponding author:** Robert W. Alexander, Global Alliance of Regenerative Medicine(GARM), Institute Of Regenerative Medicine & Surgery, (IRMS) Hamilton, MT 59840, Fellow, International College of Surgeons

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Abstract

The interplay between Cellular Stromal Vascular Fraction (cSVF), Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC), and Pericytes is crucial for regulation of intercellular communication, immune modulation, and inflammatory responses in healing. This review examines advancement in understanding from 2020-2025, integrating insights from Biocellular Therapies (including Orthobiologic care) pioneered by Alexander and Everts. cSVF is a high numbers of diverse, heterogeneous population which includes the adipose-derived stem/stromal cells (AD-S/SC), mesenchymal stem cells (MSC), Pericytes/Endotheial Stem Cells (PSC/ESC), and stromal elements.

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These are all important contributors for immunomodulatory, inflammatory, and healing properties. This group contribute to suppression of non-desireable immune responses via cytokine secretion. PSC/ESC strongly support vascular stability and growth in wound healing. Alexander's reseach demonstrates the safety and efficacy of the combining cSVF plus Blood-Derivatives (HD PRP. BMAC) for musculoskeletal repair, chronic devascularized wound healing, regenerative capabilities in degenerative/aging conditions. Evert's has contributed critical information relative use of blood-derivatives, in customized preparations designed to enhance a variedty of specific clinical needs and situations. The combination are shown to synergistically enhance treatment outcomes. Discussion key signaling pathways which are contributed both BOTH the cellular components and the blood-derivatives (example: PDGF beta, PDGFR beta, TGF superfamily, and several others factors) for contributing and mediate the interactions. This review highlights some of their therapeutic potential in favorable inflammatory and immune-mediated responses needed in repair and regenerative cases.

Keywords

Stromal Vascular Fraction; cSVF; MSC; Pericyte/Endothelial Cells; Inflammation; Immune Modulation; Adipose-derived Stem/Stromal Cells; ASC; PRP; Biocellular Therapy; Orthobiologics; Cytokines; Signaling Pathways.

Introduction

The intersection of cellular therapies—especially cSVF, MSCs, and pericytes—with blood derivatives such as HD-PRP is central to regenerative medicine and immune modulation. cSVF, harvested from adipose tissue, contains a diverse array of stem/stromal cells (notably ASCs), pericytes, endothelial cells, and immune cell subsets, all contributing to tissue repair and homeostasis [1]. Compared to bone marrow-derived MSCs, adipose-derived MSCs exhibit superior immunomodulatory properties [2]. Pericytes, which envelop capillaries and microvessels, are pivotal for vascular stability and immune regulation [3]. The integration of HD-PRP—rich in growth factors and bioactive proteins—amplifies these effects and has been validated in musculoskeletal and pulmonary applications, as well as in aesthetic medicine [46]. This review provides an updated synthesis of the cellular and molecular crosstalk that enhances inflammation control and regeneration.

Cellular Components and Blood Derivatives: Characteristics and Roles

cSVF

cSVF is isolated from adipose tissue using enzymatic or mechanical methods, yielding a heterogeneous cell mixture with potent regenerative and immunomodulatory effects [1]. The stem/stromal cell population in cSVF, particularly ASCs, plays a central role in tissue repair, reducing inflammation through secretion of cytokines and regulation of immune cell activity [7]. cSVF promotes anti-inflammatory macrophage polarization and T regulatory cell expansion, and its clinical utility is most pronounced when combined with HD-PRP, particularly in musculoskeletal and degenerative conditions [4,5].

MSCs

MSCs, present in nearly all tissues and especially abundant in adipose tissue, are multipotent and exhibit low immunogenicity, lacking major MHC class II and expressing low MHC class I [8]. MSCs reduce T-cell proliferation, suppress dendritic cell maturation, and attenuate NK cell activity through secretion of IL-6, TGF-β1, IDO, and PGE2 [2,9]. Notably, combining cSVF-derived MSCs with HD-PRP enhances their

immunomodulatory and reparative capacity [10].

Pericytes

Pericytes, found within the vascular basement membrane, express α-SMA, PDGFR-β, and NG2 [11]. They maintain vascular integrity, regulate immune cell trafficking, and are increasingly recognized as progenitors of MSCs [12]. Pericyte loss or dysfunction is linked to vascular instability and heightened inflammation in diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and Alzheimer's disease [13,14].

Mechanisms of Communication: Key Signaling Pathways

The interaction between cSVF, MSCs, pericytes, and blood derivatives is mediated by overlapping signaling pathways, which coordinate their roles in tissue repair and immune modulation. The table below summarizes these pathways and their cellular and biochemical contributors:

Pathway	Main Contributors	Role in Repair & Immunity	Blood Derivative Impact
PDGFβ/PDGFRβ	Pericytes, MSCs	Vascular stabilization, pericyte recruitment	HD-PRP ↑
TGF-β	MSCs, Pericytes	Stem cell differentiation, ECM regulation	HD-PRP ↑, PPP →
VEGF	MSCs, Endothelial	Angiogenesis, vascular permeability	HD-PRP ↑, PPP →
Notch	MSCs, Pericytes	Cell differentiation, vascular development	HD-PRP/PPP ↑
FOXO	Pericytes, MSCs	Stress response, anti-inflammatory signaling	HD-PRP/PPP ↑
Wnt/β-catenin	MSCs, Pericytes	Self-renewal, tissue regeneration	HD-PRP ↑, PPP →
PI3K/Akt	MSCs, Endothelial	Cell survival, proliferation, angiogenesis	HD-PRP/PPP ↑
↑ = enhances, → = supports/sustains			

Table 1: Key Signaling Pathways and Major Contributors.

In summary of the above (Table 1), note that the information below is an attempt to summarize the contribution of the blood derivatives which act synergistically with the cSVF contributions in the processes. The brief review of important individual signaling pathways is offered to currently provide a better summary, and that understanding each component and its contributions will become the determining factor in development of future application.

These Pathways Are Some of The Most Noted and Appreciated Components

Pdgfβ/pdgfrβ - (platelet-derived growth factors

Essential for pericyte recruitment and vascular stability, with HD-PRP delivering a potent source of PDGFβ to accelerate vessel maturation and tissue repair [3,15].

TGF-β - (Transforming Growth Factor super-family)

Regulates MSC differentiation and pericyte contractility, with HD-PRP providing a robust, localized source of TGF-β essential for balanced tissue regeneration [2,16].

VEGF – (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor)

Drives angiogenesis; HD-PRP's high VEGF content stimulates endothelial proliferation and

neovascularization, while PPP ensures sustained delivery [17].

Notch pathway
Coordinates cell differentiation and vascular development; HD-PRP/PPP indirectly enhance this pathway by supporting cell viability [2,18].

FOXO pathway
Mediates anti-inflammatory and oxidative stress responses; HD-PRP and PPP deliver factors that promote cellular resilience in harsh microenvironments [19].

Wnt/β-catenin pathway
Governs MSC self-renewal and differentiation; HD-PRP amplifies Wnt signaling to promote regeneration [20].

PI3K/Akt pathway
Supports cellular survival and angiogenesis under stress; HD-PRP and PPP enhance this pathway, improving outcomes in degenerative conditions [21].

Synergistic Effects: Cellular and Blood Derivative Integration
The combination of cSVF (and its cellular components) with HD-PRP and PPP results in synergistic enhancement of all above pathways, markedly increasing tissue repair, angiogenesis, and immune regulation compared to the use of either alone [4,9,22]. HD-PRP provides a concentrated burst of growth factors for acute repair, while PPP supports sustained tissue homeostasis and regeneration.

Cellular contributions to Immunomodulation and Inflammation Control
cSVF (Cellular Stromal Vascular Fraction)
cSVF suppresses lymphocyte activation and promotes anti-inflammatory environments. ASCs drive macrophage polarization toward the M2 phenotype and secrete IDO and PGE2, which inhibit T-cell and NK cell activity, fostering immune tolerance [23,24].

MSCs (Mesenchymal Stem Cells)
MSCs inhibit T-cell proliferation through IDO upregulation, promote anti-inflammatory macrophage phenotypes, suppress NK cell cytotoxicity, and induce Treg formation, maintaining immune homeostasis [8,9,25].

Pericytes (Fundamental Stem Cell From Which the MSCs May Be Generated)
Pericytes act as immune sentinels, secreting chemokines and expressing adhesion molecules to regulate immune cell trafficking; they also modulate adaptive immunity via PD-L1 expression [11,26].

Clinical Applications and Evidence
Clinical studies demonstrate the efficacy of cSVF and HD-PRP combinations in musculoskeletal disease (notably osteoarthritis and tendinopathies), post-viral lung injury (including Long COVID-19), and aesthetic applications [4,6,27]. Intra-articular ASC injections improve joint function with favorable safety profiles [^28]. In Crohn's disease, ASCs facilitate fistula healing [^29]. Ongoing research explores benefits in stroke,

multiple sclerosis, COPD, autoimmune disorders, and wound healing [30,34]. Optimization strategies include 3D cell cultures, cytokine pre-conditioning, and use of extracellular vesicles for enhanced efficacy [35].

In addition to the evolving applications in wound healing and Orthobiogic care, the ability to develop a simple and accurate means for many clinicians to begin to move from the numerous safe and successful anecdotal outcomes for presentation and peer-reviewed publications The ability of an inexpensive All-Purpose Laboratory Centrifuge system and standardized testing (example: number of cells, relative viability, average cell size, cell-surface marker identification etc.) is coming commercially available in early 2026. This coupled with the existing ability to document the actual achieved concentration of blood-derived products (numbers and concentrations delivered) will provide accurate data to begin support for a meaningful dose/response relationship to correlate with outcome analyses [36].

It has become clear that the synergistic contributions provided by Biocellular Therapies, particularly in Orthobiologic uses, have demonstrated values to outcomes, greater than use of either solo use of cellular components, OR, isolated blood-derivatives alone [37,38].

Conclusion and Future Directions

The integration of cSVF, MSCs, pericytes, and blood derivatives (HD-PRP/PPP) leverages complementary mechanisms to regulate inflammation, promote repair, and modulate immune responses. Advances by Alexander and Everts demonstrate the clinical promise of these synergistic Biocellular Therapies, particularly in Orthobiologics and post-viral recovery [4,6,22]. Challenges remain in standardizing protocols, optimizing delivery, and elucidating pericyte-specific roles. Future research should focus on targeted cell engineering, exosome-based therapies, and further refinement of blood derivative formulations to maximize clinical outcomes. This paper is intended to facilitate understanding of cell–cell and cell–blood derivative interactions in key signaling pathways.

The advances in clinical abilities to establish accurate dose/response relationship to outcomes will revolutionize the value and use of Biocellular elements, particularly enhancing our knowledge and understanding of the value of therapies to outcome in Orthobiologic uses.

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Conflicts of interest

Authors have no conflicts of interest to report

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