

## Technology Offer

# Cytokine-Loaded Microparticles in Hyaluronic Acid for Treatment of Osteoarthritis

Ref. No.: CH519

## Background

The intra-articular injection of hyaluronic acid (HA) in patients with osteoarthritis is so far the most promising treatment as it has been shown to delay the degeneration of cartilage. In this regard, HA is a well-tolerated visco-supplementation of the synovial fluid for mild and moderate osteoarthritic joints. Until now however, there is no treatment option which is both able to delay or stop degeneration and which has regenerative potential.

## Technology

A novel approach for the treatment of osteoarthritis and other cartilage defects is to inject biodegradable chemokine-loaded microparticles (e.g. PLGA-based) in a suspension of HA into the joint cavity. The microparticles ensure that the chemokines are released in a controlled manner (not at once) over a defined period of time thereby establishing stable chemo-attracting gradients that are required for effective stem cell recruitment to the site of cartilage defect. *In vitro* results surprisingly show that the combined administration of HA and the chemokine CCL25 (thymus expressed chemokine) or CXCL12 (stromal cell-derived factor-1 $\alpha$ ) synergistically promote the migration of human stem- and/or progenitor cells. Animal experiments in an osteoarthritis disease model of guinea pigs have been started

## Benefits

- ✓ Gradually local cytokine release
- ✓ Stimulation of cartilage regeneration
- ✓ Biocompatible and biodegradable microparticles (PLGA) (Degradation within 50-60 days)
- ✓ No phagocytosis of the microparticles by leukocytes

## Application

- Intra-articular injection for the treatment of osteoarthritis
- Arthroscopic application of a paste containing HA, cytokine-loaded particles and fibrinogen

## Commercial Opportunity

In-licensing or industrial cooperation for further development

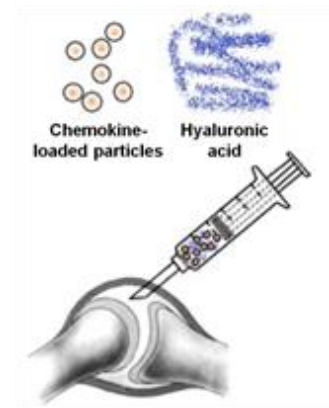


Fig.1: Intra-articular injection

## Keywords

Osteoarthritis, hyaluronic acid, cytokine, microparticles, tissue regeneration, local drug delivery

## Developmental Status

*In vitro*, ongoing *in vivo* experiments

## IP Status

DE patent application (12/2010)  
 EP patent granted in 08/2014  
 validated in: DE, GB, FR,  
 IT, CH, AT  
 US patent application (11/2011)

publication [here](#)

## Patent Owner

Charité- Universitätsmedizin Berlin

## Contact

Dr. Bettina Büttner  
 Technology Manager

Tel.: +49 30 450 570 874  
 Fax: +49 30 450 7570 964

Bettina.Buettner@charite.de  
<http://technologietransfer.charite.de>