# A comparative study between different types of umbilical cord stem cells in treatment of experimental diabetic rats

A thesis submitted for the partial fulfillment of M.Sc. Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Biochemistry)

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## دراسة مقارنة بين أنواع مختلفة من خلايا الحبل السري الجذعية في علاج جرذان التجارب المصابة بمرض السكر

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subjects	
<b>Publications Related to the Thesis</b>	III
List of Abbreviations	V
List of Figures	VII
List of Tables	IX
Introduction and Aim of Work	1
Review of Literature	
I. Diabetes mellitus (DM)	4
A. Definition and epidemiology	4
B. Classification	4
C. Signs and symptoms	7
D. Treatment	7
II. Stem cell	9
A. Stem cell therapy	9
B. Classification of stem cells according to their proliferation and potency	11
C. Classification of stem cells according to their source's developing stage	13
III. Umbilical cord (UC) stem cells	16
A. Sources of stem cells within the UC	17
B. Advantages of UC stem cells	19
IV. Mesenchymal stem cells' (MSCs) therapy	21
A. Sources and definition by International	21
Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT)	<b>41</b>
B. Therapeutic potential of MSCs in many	23
diseases	23
C. Role of MSCs in type 1 DM therapy	25

Materials and Methods	30
I. Isolation of human umbilical cord blood	32
mononuclear cells (UCB-MNCs), culture and	
expansion of UCB-MSCs	
II. Culture and expansion of cryopreserved	39
Wharton's Jelly (WJ)-MSCs	3)
III. Characterization of the isolated and cultured cells	39
IV. Differentiation of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs	42
into insulin producing cells (IPCs) in vitro	72
V. Assessment of the in vitro differentiation	44
potential of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	77
VI. Assessment of therapeutic potential of UCB-	55
MSCs and WJ-MSCs in streptozotocin (STZ)	33
induced diabetic rats (In vivo)	
· /	58
VII. Statistical analyses	50
Results	<b>7</b> 0
I. Isolation of human UCB-MNCs, culture and	59
expansion of UCB-MSCs and cryopreserved WJ-	
MSCs	
II. Characterization of the of the isolated and	59
cultured cells	
III. Assessment of in vitro differentiation of UCB-	65
MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
IV. The therapeutic potential of UCB-MSCs and WJ-	73
MSCs in STZ-induced diabetic rats	
Discussion	78
Summary and Conclusions	90
Recommendations	94
References	95
Appendix	117-132
Arabic Summary	

#### **Publications related to the Thesis**

## I. Poster presented in 20th ISCT Annual Meeting April 23-26, 2014, Paris, France



#### Cytotherapy

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20th Annual ISCT Meeting



Comparing umbilical cord blood stem cells and wharton's jelly mesenchymal stem cells regarding their differentiation potential to insulin producing cells

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#### Introduction

The number of patients suffering from Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is growing in an alarming rate which makes DM the most prevalent and serious metabolic disease. Now, cell therapy treatment options for diabetic patients are under extensive study. Interestingly, umbilical cord (UC) has been proved to be a good source of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), namely from umbilical cord blood (UCB-MSCs) and Wharton's jelly (WJ-MSCs).

#### Objectives

We thought to investigate the difference between these 2 important banking sources of stem cells and to compare their differentiation potentials towards insulin producing cells (IPCs) in vitro and their potential use for treatment of streptozotocin (STZ) induced diabetic rats invivo.

#### Materials and methods

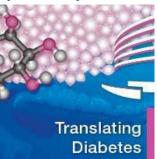
Both UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs were isolated from UC and expanded for several passages. Expression of typical MSCs surface antigens and adipogenic differentiation potential as an example of mesenchymal lineage was used to verify MSCs identity. Afterwards, both UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs were induced to differentiate into IPCs, then the differentiated cells were assessed both genetically by determining the expression of Nestin, as stem cell marker and key markers of mature  $\beta$ -cells such as Pdx-1, Mafa and Nio/2.2 using qRT-PCR, and functionally by measuring insulin secretion after glucose challenge (Glucose stimulated insulin secretion; GSIS); a hall mark of functional  $\beta$ -cells.

#### Results and conclusions

WJ appeared to be a much more homogenous and potential source for MSCs as compared to UCB. Interestingly, both UCB-stern cells and WJ-MSCs were successfully differentiated to IPCs. Yet, the resulting IPCs from WJ-MSCs were to a limited extent functioning better than those obtained from UCB-MSCs. Both cell types were able to decrease fasting blood glucose level transiently in STZ induced diabetic mice. Taken together, we can conclude that WJ could represent a potential source of cells in the field of DM cell therapy rather than UCB.

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## II. Poster presented in EMBO/EMBL Symposium-Translating Diabetes April 30-May 3, 2014, Heidelberg, Germany



## The generation of insulin producing cells from Wharton's jelly mesenchymal stem cells in comparison to umbilical cord blood mesenchymal stem cells

*Introduction:* The number of patients suffering from Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is growing in an alarming rate which makes DM the most prevalent metabolic disease. Now, cell therapy treatment options for diabetic patients are under extensive study. Interestingly, umbilical cord (UC) has been proved to be a good source of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), namely; umbilical cord blood (UCB-MSCs) and Wharton's jelly (WJ-MSCs).

*Objectives:* we thought to investigate the difference between these 2 important banking sources of stem cells and to compare their differentiation potentials towards insulin producing cells (IPCs) invitro and their potential use for treatment of streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats invivo.

Materials and methods: Both UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs were isolated from UC and expanded for several passages. Expression of typical MSCs surface antigens and adipogenic differentiation potential as an example of mesenchymal lineage was used to verify MSCs identity. Afterwards, both UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs were induced to differentiate into IPCs, then the differentiated cells were assessed both genetically by determining the expression of Nestin, as stem cell marker and key markers of mature  $\beta$ -cells such as Pdx-1, Mafa and Nkx2.2 using qRT-PCR, and functionally by measuring insulin secretion after glucose challenge (Glucose stimulated insulin secretion; GSIS); a hall mark of functional  $\beta$ -cells.

**Results and conclusions:** WJ appeared to be a much more homogenous and potential source for MSCs as compared to UCB. Interestingly, both UCB-stem cells and WJ-MSCs were successfully differentiated to IPCs. Yet, the resulting IPCs from WJ-MSCs were to a limited extent functioning better than those from UCB-MSCs. Both cell types were able to decrease fasting blood glucose level transiently in diabetic rats, yet WJ-MSCs showed an earlier more sustained effect. Taken together, we can conclude that WJ could represent a potential source of cells in the field of DM cell therapy rather than UCB.

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
ASCs	Adult stem cells
BM	Bone marrow
BW	Body weight
CB	Cord blood
CD	Clusters of differentiation
cDNA	Complementary deoxy nucleic acid
Ct	Cycle threshold
DM	Diabetes mellitus
<b>DMEM</b>	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium
dNTP	Deoxy nucleotide tri-phosphate
ELISA	Enzyme linked immuno-sorbent assay
ESCs	Embryonic stem cells
FACS	Fluorescence-activated cell sorting
FBG	Fasting blood glucose
FBS	Fetal bovine serum
FITC	Fluorescein isothiocyanate
GDM	Gestational diabetes mellitus
GSIS	Glucose stimulated insulin secretion
GVHD	Graft-versus-host disease
H&E	Hematoxylin and eosin stain
HG-	High glucose- Dulbecco's modified Eagle's
DMEM	medium
HG-KRB	High glucose-Kreb's ringer bicarbonate
HLA	Human leukocyte antigen
HSCs	Hematopoietic stem cells
IDDM	Insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
IDF	International diabetes federation
Ig	Immunoglobulin
IPCs	Insulin producing cells
IR	Insulin resistance
ISCT	International society for cellular therapy
Isl-1	Insulin gene enhancer protein
KRB	Kreb's ringer bicarbonate

I C IIDD	T 1 TZ 12 1 1 1
LG- KRB	Low glucose-Kreb's ringer bicarbonate
LG-	Low glucose-Dulbecco's modified Eagle's
DMEM	medium
MafA	V-maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma
	oncogene homolog
MHC	Major histocompatibility complex
MNCs	Mononuclear cells
MSCs	Mesenchymal stem cells
NA	Nicotinamide
Ngn-3	Neurogenin-3
NIDDM	Non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
P	Passage
PBS	Phosphate-buffered saline
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
Pdx-1	Pancreatic and deodenal homebox1
PE	Phycoerythrin
Pen/Strep/	Penicillin /streptomycin /amphotercin B
Ampho	
qRT-PCR	Quantitative reverse transcriptase polymerase
	chain reaction
RNase	Ribonuclease enzyme
RT	Reverse transcriptase enzyme
STZ	Streptozotocin
Taq	Thermusaquaticus
UC	Umbilical cord
UCB	Umbilical cord blood
UCWJ	Umbilical cord Wharton's jelly
WHO	World health organization
WJ	Wharton's jelly
α-ΜΕΜ	Alpha minimum essential medium

#### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure number	Figure title	Page
Figure (1)	Pathogenesis of IDDM	5
Figure (2)	Pathogenesis of NIDDM	6
Figure (3)	Pluripotent stem cells are capable of	12
	forming tissues originating in the three	
	embryonic layers	
Figure (4)	Perinatal tissues	15
Figure (5)	Compartments within the human UC	17
Figure (6)	Different sources of MSCs; MSCs can	22
	be derived from several adult or infant	
	tissues	
Figure (7)	Immunomodulatory effect of MSCs	24
Figure (8)	Different routes of MSCs /IPCs	27
	administration in rats/ mice	
Figure (9)	In vivo collection of human UCB	33
Figure (10)	Buffy coat at plasma/histopaque	34
	interface after density gradient Ficoll	
	centrifugation of UCB	
Figure (11)	Filling the hemocytometer chamber	36
	with cell sample diluted by trypan blue	
Figure (12)	Standard calibration curve for insulin	54
Figure (13)	Phase contrast images of cultured UCB	60
	cells (a): P0 & (b): P1	
Figure (14)	Phase contrast imagesof cultured WJ	60
	cells (a): P0 & (b): P1	
Figure (15)	Immunophenotyping of (a):UCB-MNCs	63
	and (b):UCB-MSCs and (c):WJ-MSCs	
Figure (16)	Adipogenic differentiation of CB-MSCs	64
	and WJ-MSCs	
Figure (17)	Phase contrast images of differentiated	65
	UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs to their	
	control cells.	

Figure (18)	Relative mRNA expression of Nestin throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	66
Figure (19a)	Relative mRNA expression of Pdx-1, throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	67
Figure (19b)	Relative mRNA expression of MafA throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	67
Figure (19c)	Relative mRNA expression of Ngn-3, throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	68
Figure (19d)	Relative mRNA expression of Nkx2.2 throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	68
Figure (19e)	Relative mRNA expression of Isl-1 throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	69
Figure (20)	Fold change of mRNA relative expression level of β-cells genes throughout the differentiation protocol of UCB-MSC into IPCs	70
Figure (21)	Fold change of mRNA relative expression level of β-cells genes throughout the differentiation protocol of WJ-MSC into IPCs	70
Figure (22)	In vitro GSIS assay of differentiated UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs	72
Figure (23)	FBG levels of STZ-induced diabetic rats for 2 months post transplantation UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs	74
Figure (24)	BW change of STZ-induced diabetic rats for 2 months post transplantation UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs	75
Figure (25)	Histology of various organs in normal, diabetic and MSCs treated diabetic rats	77

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Table title	Page
number		
Table (1)	Preparation of complete α-MEM	41
Table (2)	Media throughout the 3 steps	43
	differentiation protocol of MSCs into	
	IPCs	
Table (3)	cDNA synthesis master mix volumes	48
Table (4)	qRT-PCR reaction mix	49
Table (5)	Forward and Reverse primers used in	50
	qRT-PCR reaction	
Table (6)	CDs expression in UCB-MNCs, UCB-	62
	MSCs and WJ-MSCs	
Table (A1)	Relative mRNA expression of Nestin	117
. ,	throughout the differentiation protocol	
	of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
Table (A2)	Relative mRNA expression of Pdx-1	118
	throughout the differentiation protocol	
	of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
Table (A3)	Relative mRNA expression of MafA	119
	throughout the differentiation protocol	
	of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
Table (A4)	Relative mRNA expression of Ngn-3	120
	throughout the differentiation protocol	
	of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
Table (A5)	Relative mRNA expression of Nkx2.2	121
	throughout the differentiation protocol	
	of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
Table (A6)	Relative mRNA expression of Isl-1	122
	throughout the differentiation protocol	
	of UCB-MSCs and WJ-MSCs into IPCs	
Table (A7)	Levels of Insulin secreted from both	123
	differentiated UCB-MSCs and WJ-	
	MSCs in response to in vitro glucose	
	challenge	

Table (A8)	FBG of diabetic/DMEM (control) rats	124
	group every 10 days interval for 2	
	months post transplantation	
Table (A9)	FBG of diabetic/UCB-MSCs rats group	125
	every 10 days interval for 2 months post	
	transplantation	
Table	FBG of diabetic/WJ-MSCs rats group	126
(A10)	every 10 days interval for 2 months post	
	transplantation	
Table	BW of diabetic/DMEM (control) rats	127
(A11)	group every 10 days interval for 2	
, ,	months post transplantation	
Table	Changes in BW of diabetic/DMEM	128
(A12)	(control) rats group every 10 days	
, ,	interval for 2 months post	
	transplantation	
Table	BW of diabetic/UCB-MSCs rats group	129
(A13)	every 10 days interval for 2 months post	
	transplantation	
Table	Changes in BW of diabetic/UCB-MSCs	130
(A14)	rats group every 10 days interval for 2	
	months post transplantation	
Table	BW of diabetic/WJ-MSCs rats group	131
(A15)	every 10 days interval for 2 months post	
	transplantation	
Table	Changes in BW of diabetic/WJ-MSCs	132
(A16)	rats group every 10 days interval for 2	
	months post transplantation	