





# **The Possible Effect of Bone Marrow Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells Versus Their Exosomes on Imiquimod-Induced Psoriasis-Like Skin Inflammation in Female Albino Rats. A Histological Study**

Thesis submitted for the partial fulfillment of M.D degree in  
Basic Science

**Histology and Cell Biology**

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**2022**





*Words cannot express my thanks, gratefulness, respect, and love to my parents and all members of my family. Without their help, support, patience, and encouragement, I would have never achieved any success.*



Ahmed Samir Mohamed Bakr,  
2022



## **Acknowledgment**

*First and foremost, thanks to **ALLAH** the kindest and the most merciful, to whom I relate any success in achieving any work in my life.*

*I find no words by which I can express my deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to **Prof. Dr. Salwa Mohamed Abdel Tawab**, professor of Histology and Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for her constructive experienced advice and valuable comments that added much to this work and made this work executed. Any attempt to express my indebtedness to her will be far from being complete.*

*I am particularly very grateful and appreciative to the keen supervision, great experience, and endless help of **Prof. Dr. Gehad Ahmed Hammouda**, professor of Histology and Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University. He has always been helpful in attitude that made the completion of this work much easier than it would otherwise be.*

*My deepest thanks are to **Ass. Prof. Dr. Mona Hussien Raafat Ahmed**, assistant professor of Histology and Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University for her kind care, honest help, and continuous support and guidance throughout the performance of this work.*

*I want to extend my sincere thanks to all my professors and colleagues in the Histology and Cell Biology department for their Valuable advice, support, and encouragement.*



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## **List of Abbreviations**

<b>ANOVA</b>	Analysis of variant.
<b>APCs</b>	Antigen Presenting cells
<b>BM-MSCs</b>	Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells
<b>BMP-2</b>	Bone Morphogenetic Proteins-2
<b>CCR2</b>	Chemokine Receptor Type 2
<b>CD</b>	Cluster of Differentiation
<b>CFU-F</b>	Colony Forming Unit-Fibroblasts
<b>DC</b>	Dendritic cells
<b>DMD</b>	Duchenne muscular dystrophy
<b>DMEM</b>	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium
<b>FBS</b>	Fetal bovine serum
<b>GRO</b>	Growth-Regulated Oncogene
<b>GvHD</b>	Graft Versus Host Disease
<b>H&amp;E</b>	Hematoxylin and Eosin.
<b>HGF</b>	Hepatocyte Growth Factor
<b>IDO</b>	Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase
<b>IFN-<math>\gamma</math></b>	Interferon- $\gamma$
<b>IGF-1</b>	Insulin-like Growth Factor-1
<b>IL-(no.)</b>	Interleukin-(number)
<b>IMQ</b>	Imiquimod
<b>LSD</b>	Least Significant Difference
<b>miRNAs</b>	micro RNAs
<b>MT2A</b>	Metallothionein 2A

<b>NK</b>	Natural Killer cells
<b>NO</b>	Nitric Oxide
<b>OA</b>	Osteoarthritis
<b>PAS</b>	Periodic Acid Schiff's
<b>PBS</b>	Phosphate Buffer Saline
<b>PCNA</b>	Proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen
<b>PCR</b>	Polymerase Chain Reaction
<b>PGE2</b>	Prostaglandin E2
<b>P-value</b>	Probability of significance value.
<b>TEM</b>	Transmission Electron Microscopic
<b>TGF-<math>\beta</math></b>	Transforming Growth Factor – Beta
<b>Th (no.)</b>	T helper (number) cell
<b>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></b>	Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha

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## **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Psoriasis is a chronic skin inflammatory disease. Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BM-MSCs) and their derived exosomes are known for their immunomodulatory properties.

**Aim of the Work:** To investigate the effect of locally injected BM-MSCs and their derived exosomes in female albino rats subjected to imiquimod (IMQ)-induced psoriasis-like skin inflammation.

**Materials and Methods:** Fifty albino rats (40 females and 10 males) were used. The female animals were randomly classified into four groups; group I (control group), group II (IMQ group) where the rats received topical IMQ once daily for 5 consecutive days, group III (IMQ + BM-MSCs) where the rats received a dose of 1 million BM-MSCs on the first day only in addition to topical IMQ, and group IV (IMQ + BM-MSCs-derived exosomes) where the rats received purified concentrate of exosomes derived from BM-MSCs in addition to topical IMQ. The 10 male albino rats served as the source of BM-MSCs and their derived exosomes. After 5 days, all animals were sacrificed, and skin specimens were processed

for light microscopic studies: H&E and immunohistochemical staining for Proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen (PCNA) and Y-chromosome identification using Real-time PCR. Morphometric measurements and statistical analysis were done for the mean epidermal thickness, the mean count of PCNA-positive keratinocytes in the epidermis, and the mean area of dermal PCNA-positive reaction.

**Results:** The general observations and microscopic examination of sections obtained from group II rats revealed psoriasis-like skin inflammatory reactions including acanthosis, parakeratosis, and marked inflammatory infiltrate. There was a statistically significant increase in the epidermal thickness and PCNA-positive reactions in group II compared to other groups. Groups III and IV showed significant improvement, however, group III showed almost normal histological structure.

**Conclusion:** BM-MSCs and purified exosomes concentrate were shown to significantly ameliorate psoriasis-like inflammatory changes in the skin of animal models.

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**Keywords:** psoriasis; imiquimod; mesenchymal stem cells; exosomes