

Identification of substances in: Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMP)

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$$\begin{array}{r} C \quad B \quad G \\ \hline M \quad E \quad B \end{array}$$

MEDICINES
EVALUATION
BOARD



Disclaimer:

The presentation represents personal views only, meant to initiate further discussion. Does not necessarily reflect current or future view of MEB, EMA, CHMP, or any other regulatory body



Outline of the presentation

- **Regulatory basis and definitions in accordance with EU Directive and Guidelines;**
- **Description of Cell-based products in view of IDMP ISO- 11238 Standard (Structurally Diverse Substances)**
- **Important data elements for unique identification of cell products**
- **Example cell-based medicinal product: 3 chondrocytes products**
- **Endeavour to capture Chondrocytes product in database model**
- **Example: Active cellular immunotherapy product**



Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products

- **Gene therapy products**

- contains recombinant nucleic acid with a view to regulating, repairing, replacing, adding or deleting a genetic sequence

- **Cell Based Medicinal Products**

-cells or tissues subject to **substantial manipulation...**
 - Or indicated for **heterologous use**

Somatic cell therapy products:

- pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action**

Tissue Engineered products:

- used with a view to, **regenerating, repairing or replacing a human tissue**

- **Combination products**

- ATMP containing medical device



Advance Therapy Medicinal Products:

1) Directive 2009/120/EC: Part IV



Somatic cell therapy medicinal product:

Somatic cell therapy medicinal product means a biological medicinal product which has the following characteristics:

- a) **Contains or consists of cells or tissues** that have been subject to **substantial manipulation** so that biological characteristics, physiological **functions or structural properties** relevant for the intended clinical use **have been altered**, or of cells or tissues that are **not intended** to be used **for the same essential function(s)** in the recipient and the donor;
 - b) **Is presented as having properties for, or is used in or administered to human being** with a view to **treating, preventing or diagnosing** a disease through the pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action of its cells or tissues.
- The active substance shall be composed of the engineered cells and/or tissues
 - Additional substances (e.g. scaffolds, matrices, etc) which are combined with manipulated cells of which they form an integral part shall be considered as starting materials, even if not of biological origin.



HUMAN CELL-BASED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Cells are complex biological systems

- Cells respond to (subtle) external triggers.
- Cells are heterogenic (intra- & inter-batch)
- Quality parameters determined by:
 - Origin and history of starting material
 - Each manufacturing step
 - Dissociation procedure of cells (mechanical/enzymatic/transport conditions)
 - Culture conditions (cytokines, media components, cell-cell contact, etc.)
 - Cell doubling level (de-differentiation)
- QC only limited part of Quality parameters



Knee Cartilage damage Transplanted Autologous Chondrocytes

- **Autologous Osteochondral-graft Transplantation (AOT) :**

- Fragments of healthy cartilage (contains chondrocytes) harvested from non-bearing site directly transplanted into (small) lesion. **(no ATMP!)**

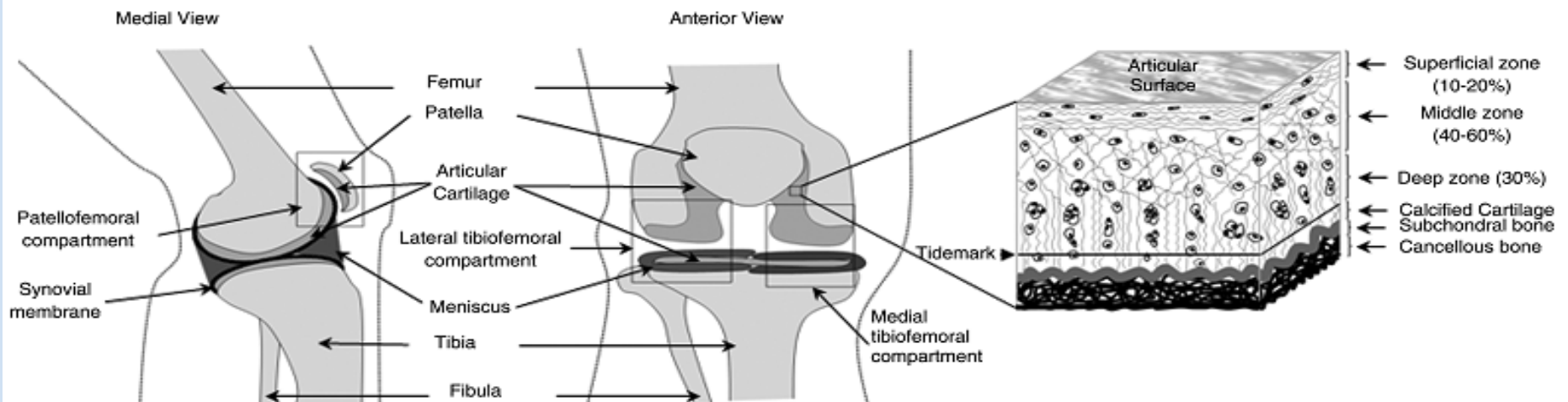
- **Autologous Chondrocytes Implantation (ACI):**

- Autologous chondrocytes extra-corporally multiplied by cultivation.
- Cultured chondrocytes transplanted into (larger) lesions.
- Implanted chondrocytes kept in situ by a cover, (periosteal flap / collagen membrane) to prevent cartilage hypertrophy. **(ChondroCelect)**

- **Autologous Chondrocytes on Matrix:**

- Autologous chondrocytes multiplied and seeded on collagen /hyaluronan based scaffold prior to transplantation.
- Facilitate transplantation & more equalized distribution of cells. **(Hyalograft and MACI)**

Figure 1.1.2 The structural and compartmental organization of the knee joint.





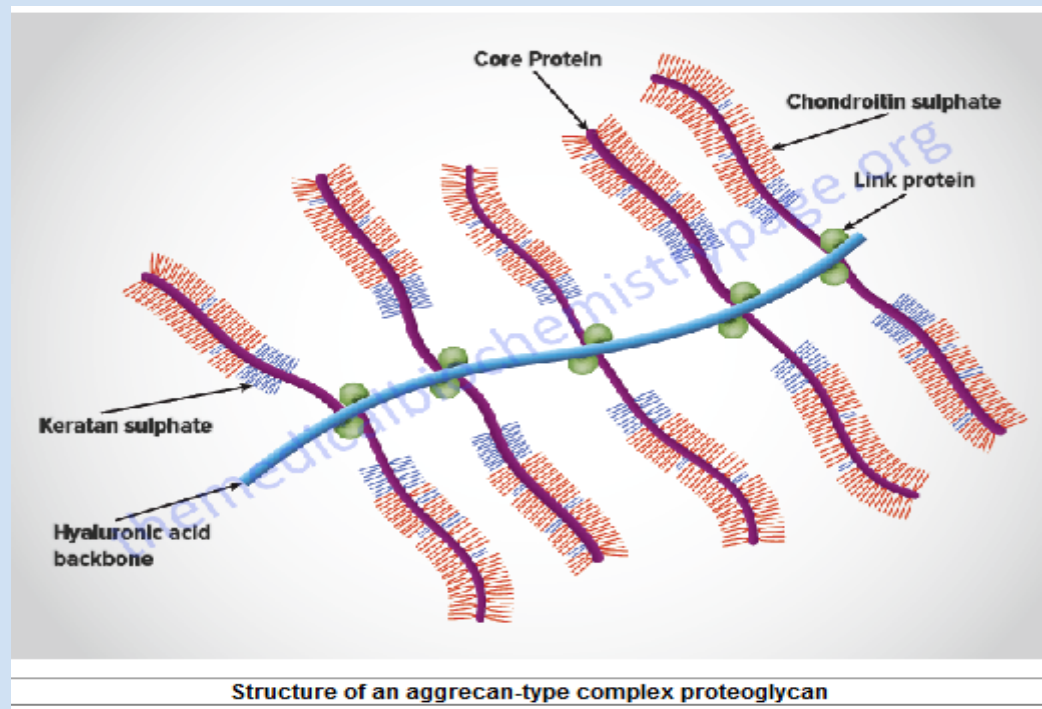
Advanced Therapy: Articular Cartilage

Proteoglycans (Aggrecan), Chondrocyte Marker

Aggrecan : cartilage-specific proteoglycan core protein (CSPCP)
Encoded by ACAN gene.

Protein is an integral part of extracellular matrix in cartilagenous tissue (withstands compression)

Proteoglycan (protein modified with large number of carbohydrates)



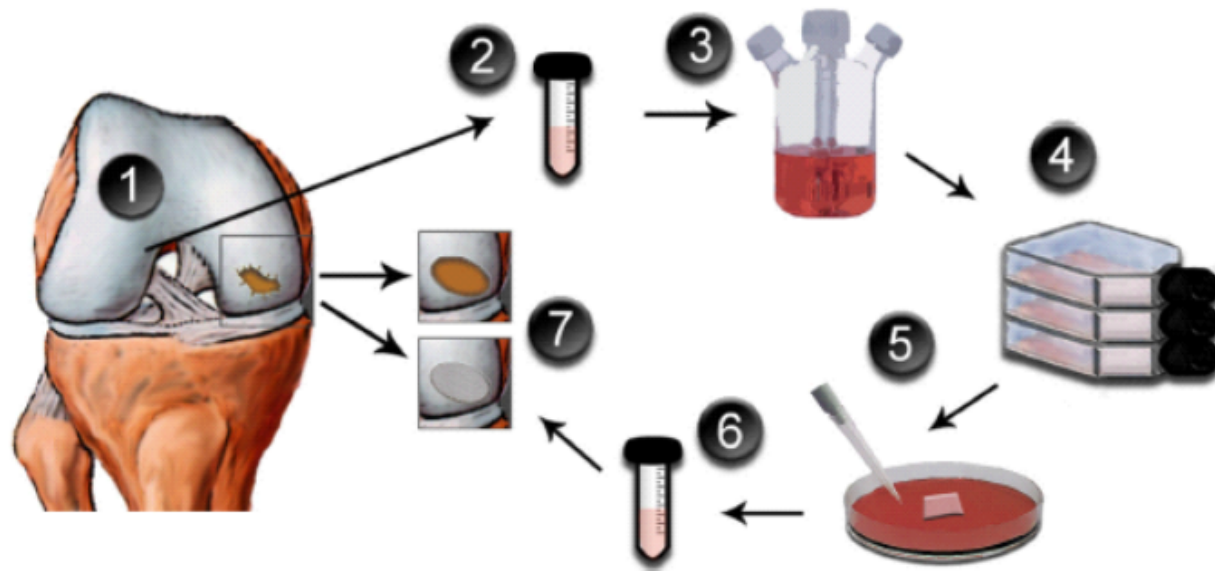
- **2316 Amino acids**
- **4 domains:**
(N-G1-G2-CS-G3-C).
- **Mol. Mass > 2.500 kDa.**
- **Core protein (210 -250 kDa)**
- **100 –150 Glyco-aminonoglycan (GAG) chains**



Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product: Manufacturing Process, Identification, Characterization

The manufacturing process of the Active Substance consists of the following steps:

- Biopsy digestion (mechanical/collagenase)
- Expansion culture (growth factors, cell doubling level)
- Cell culture harvest (trypsin) and wash
- Pooled cell suspension is seeded onto a membrane / scaffold
- Incubation period on membrane

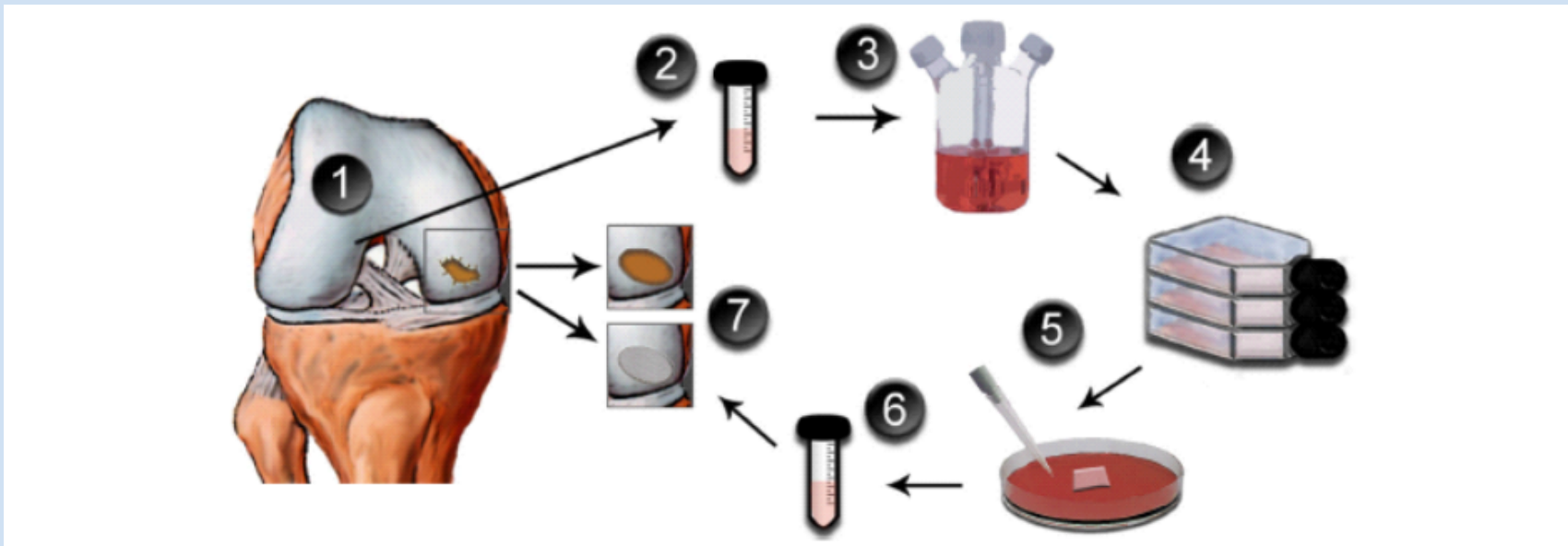




Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product: Manufacturing Process, Identification, Characterization

Critical Steps:

- Total Cell count and viability after biopsy processing/ collagenase treatment;
- Cell yield, viability, days in culture and viability for the total expansion step;
- Adhesion of cells to the membrane
- Critical quality specifications measured during expansion and growth on the scaffold and specifications for morphology assessment





MACI (Autologous Cultured Chondrocyte Cells) **Identification, Characterization, Potency**

- Identification of essential features needed to form hyaline cartilage
- Molecular markers (at both the phenotypic and epigenetic levels), which provide measures of degree of differentiation towards chondrocytic or fibroblastic lineage
- No truly chondrocyte-specific genes have been found: expression of gene markers normally abundant in chondrocytes decreases greatly in culture

IDENTITY TEST

- An assay to distinguish chondrocytes from synovial fibroblasts (synoviocytes).
 - HAPLN1 over-expressed in chondrocytes,
 - MFAP5 over-expressed in synoviocytes.
- A qPCR assay for HAPLN1 and MFAP5 mRNA expression in a MACI implant drug product sample.



Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product:
MACI (Autologous Cultured Chondrocyte Cells)

Identification, Characterization, Potency and Results

POTENCY TEST

- The MACI potency assay for gene expression of aggrecan (ACAN)
- qPCR technology on RNA isolated from 0.5 cm² Identity sample .
- **Aggrecan expression** is normalized to housekeeping gene GAPDH.

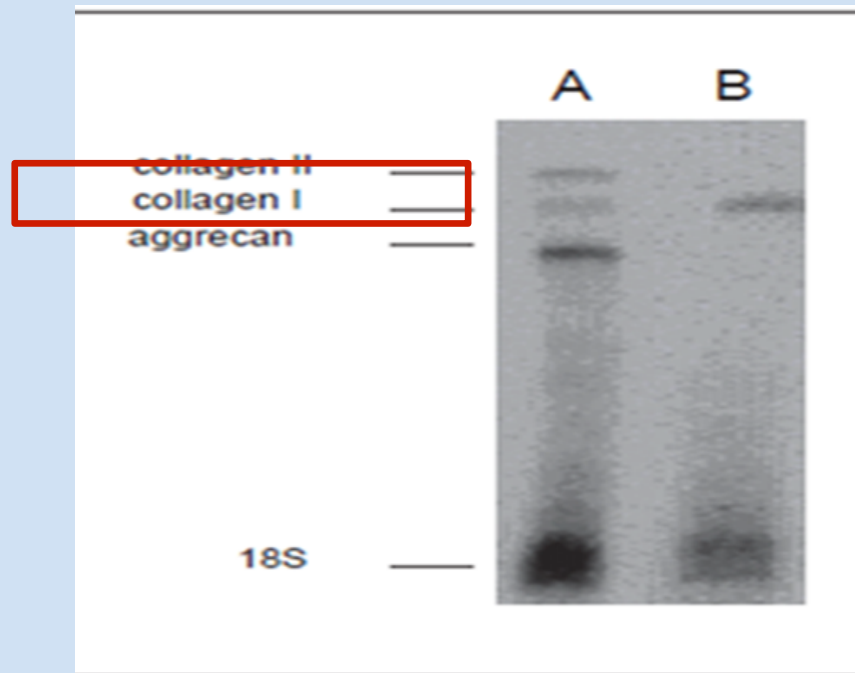


Fig.: Expression of Collagen II, Collagen I and Aggrecan in Chondrocytes (lane A) or Dermal Fibroblasts (lan B) recovered from MACI Assemblies and Cultured in Alginate.



Chondrocyte Products: Potency, Identification, Characterization

Potency

- ChondroSelect: Cellular expression patterns of genes relevant for cartilage and chondrocyte biology
- MACI: Aggrecan mRNA expression by real-time PCR.
- Hyalograft C: Measurement of COMP protein; Cartilage Oligomeric Matrix Protein (COMP): non-collagenous glycoprotein of articular extracellular matrix.

Identity

- MACI: Quantitative RT-PCR assay based on expression analysis of ratio of two markers, the chondrocytic marker HAPLN1 and the synovial/fibroblastic marker MFAP5. (synoviocytes/fibroblasts are impurities)
- Hyalograft C: RT-PCR assay of Aggrecan mRNA against a house-keeping gene in Chondrocytes vs. Fibroblast cells

Cellular Impurities: Synoviocytes/fibroblasts



Active substance definition Chondrocyte products **ChondroCelect, Hyalograft C and MACI**

ChondroCelect: Characterised viable autologous cartilage cells expanded ex vivo expressing specific marker proteins.

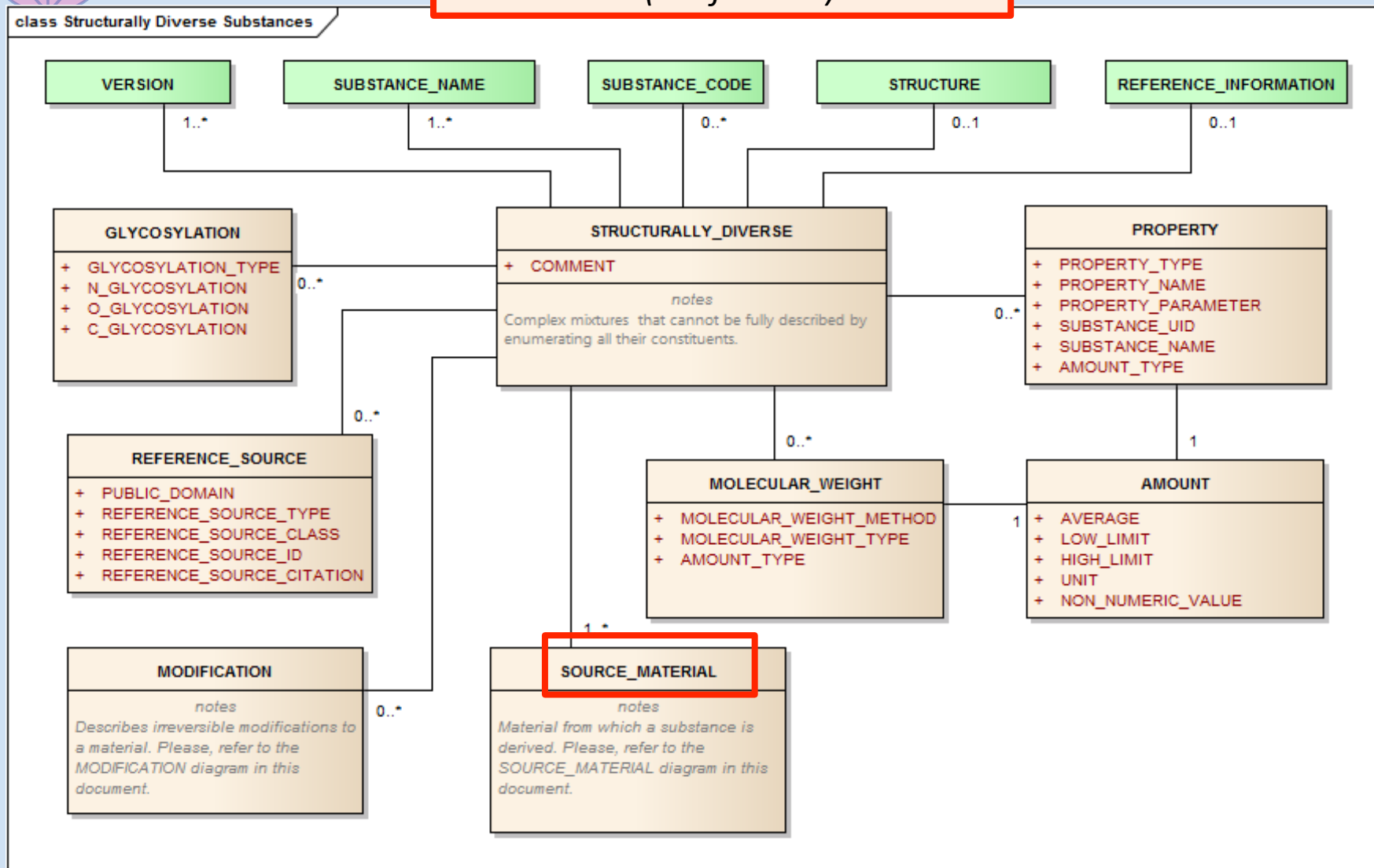
Hyalograft C: characterized viable autologous chondrocytes expanded *in vitro* seeded and cultured on a hyaluronan based scaffold.

- Autologous chondrocytes (from cartilage biopsy) are expanded on monolayer, seeded and cultured on 3D-hyaluronan based scaffold (Hyalograft C).
- The scaffold is a non-woven pad composed of a hyaluronic acid benzyl ester polymer and is a class III Medical Device CE marked by a Notified Body.

MACI: human autologous cartilage-derived cultured chondrocytes combined with a CE marked purified, resorbable porcine-derived, collagen type I/III membrane.

- Membrane is a purified resorbable porcine peritonium collagen scaffold and is trimmed to the correct size and shape of the cartilage defect and held in place onto the lesion with a fibrin sealant. The matrix is a CE marked Class III device in Europe.

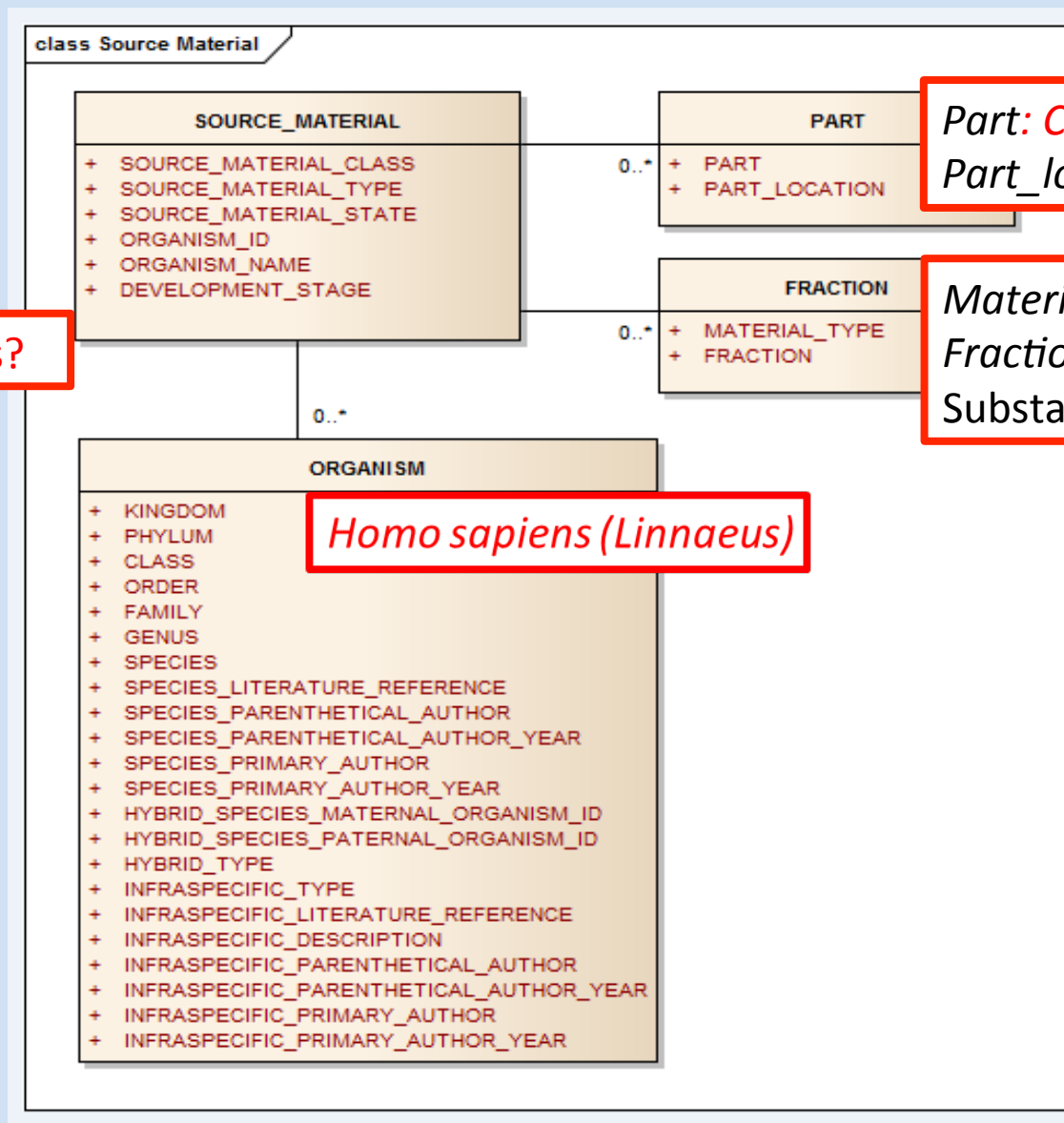
Autologous_Cultured chondrocytes
CHON12345 (Artificial ID)





Description Source_Material

Autologous?



Part: *Cartilage*
Part_location: *knee*

Material type: *Cartilage*
Fraction: *Chondrocytes*
Substance_ID CART67543P

Homo sapiens (Linnaeus)

class Specified_Substance_Group_2

VERSION

SUBSTANCE_NAME

SUBSTANCE_CODE

REFERENCE_INFORMATION

SSG2 Name: Autologous_Cultured_chondrocytes_Manuf_AA

Parent_substance ID: < CARTILAGE_ID >

SSG2_ID: CCHONFG7865

Parent_Substance ID: CART67543P

+ SPECIFIED_SUBSTANCE_GROUP2_NAME
+ PARENT_SUBSTANCE_ID

Including use for Release Specification

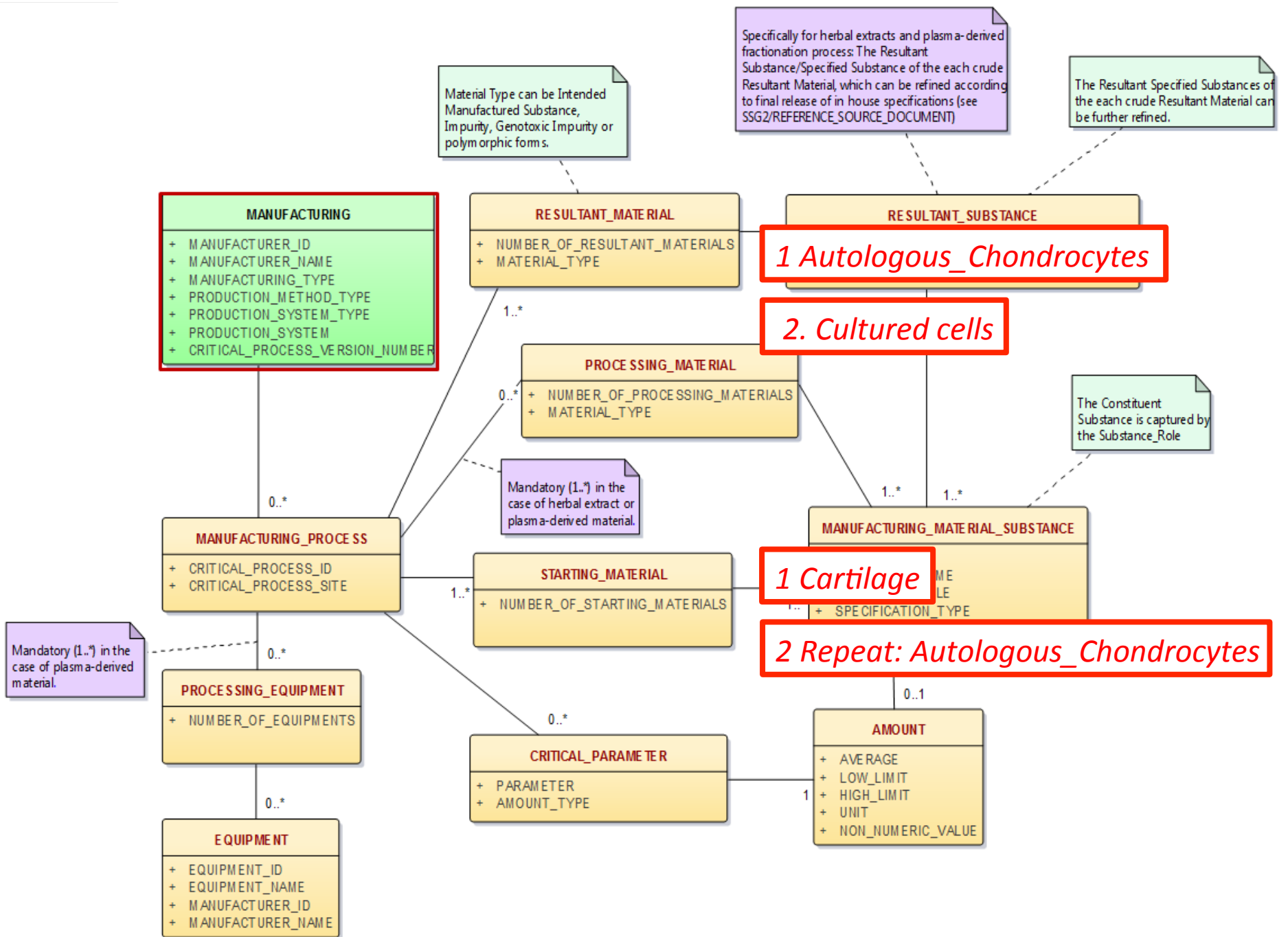
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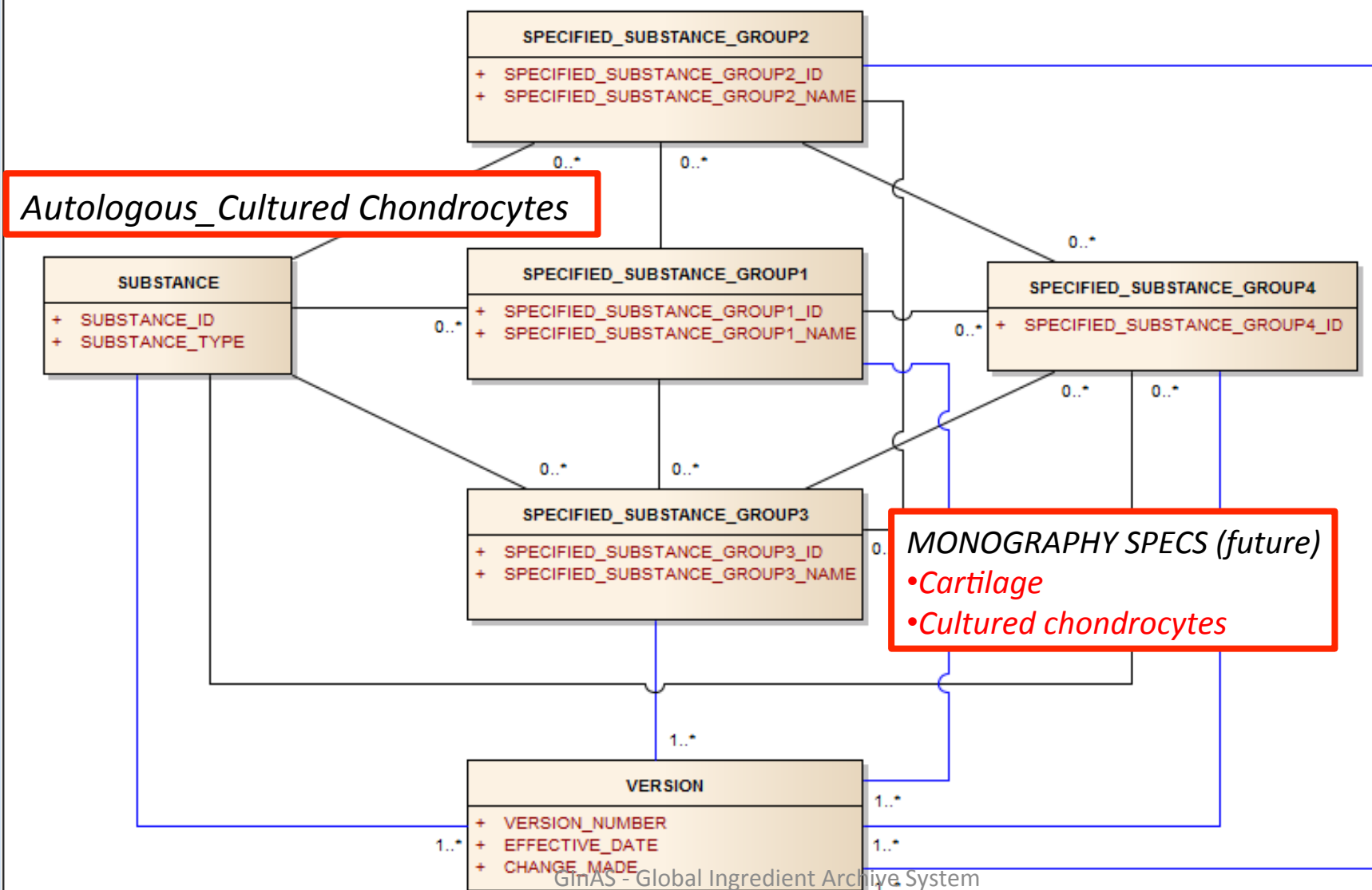
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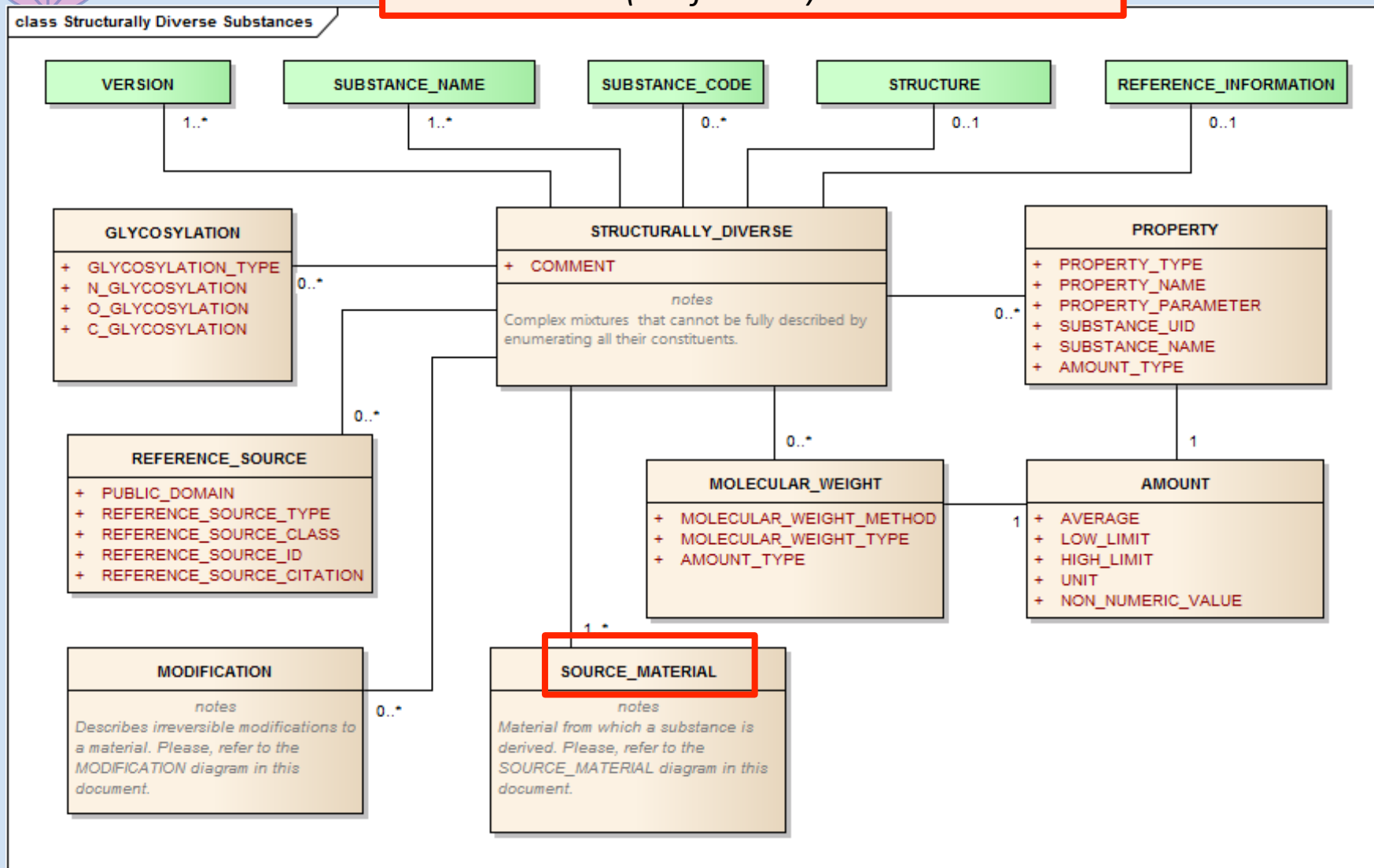
MANUFACTURING



class Substance-Specified Substance Groups Overview

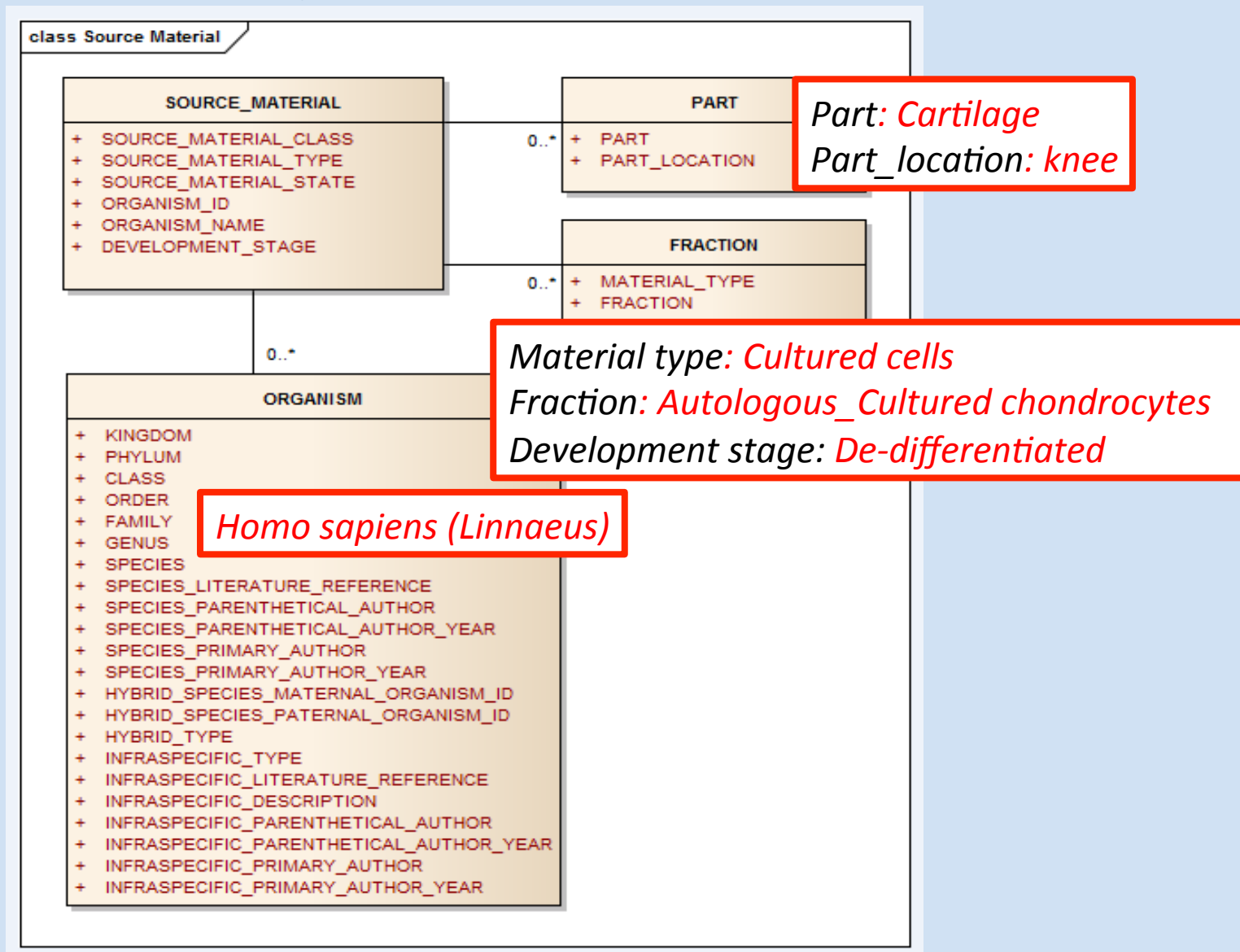


Autologous_Cultured chondrocytes on Matrix
CHONM12345 (Artificial ID)

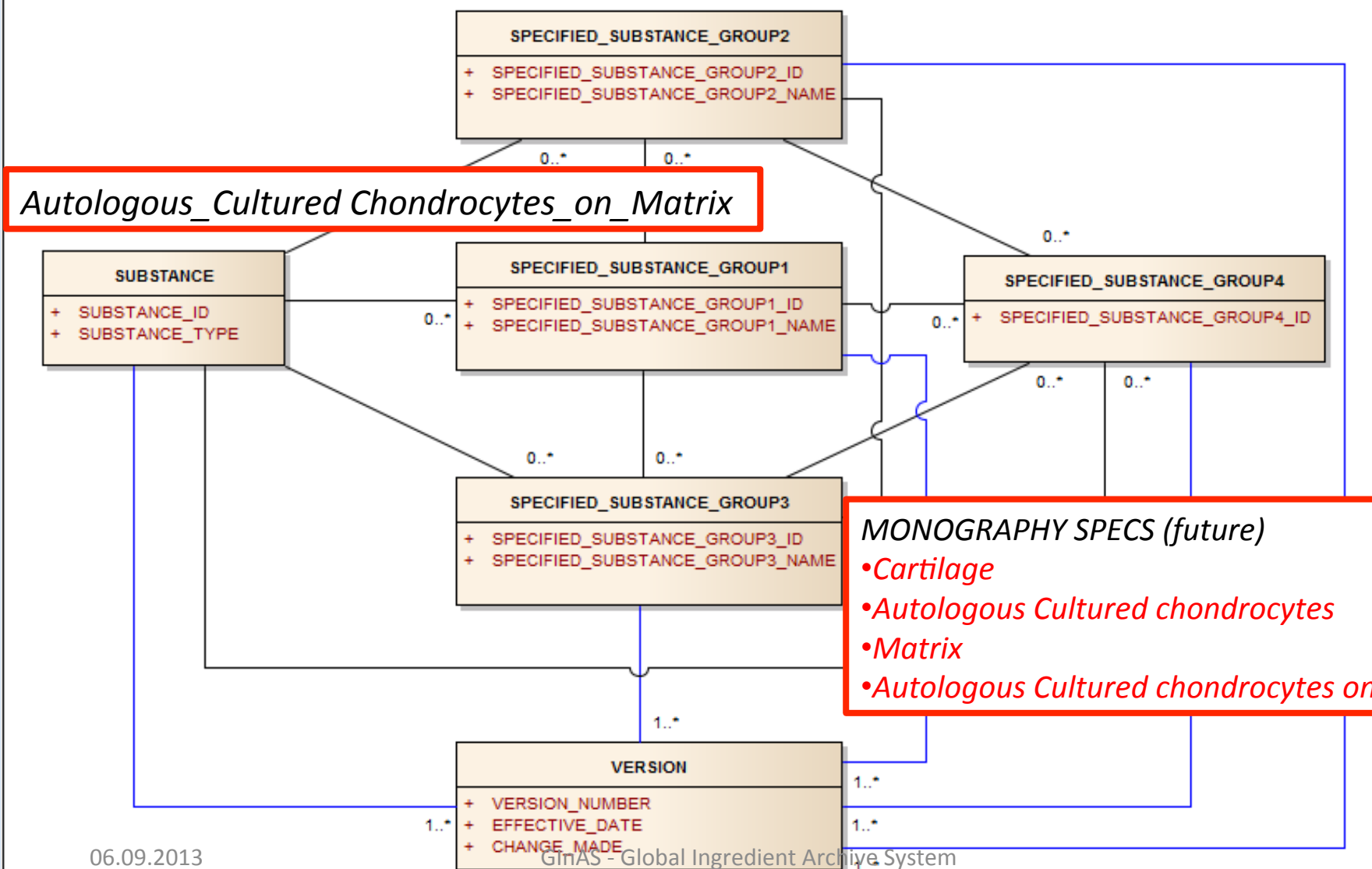




Description Source material



class Substance-Specified Substance Groups Overview



class Specified_Substance_Group_2

VERSION

SUBSTANCE_NAME

SUBSTANCE_CODE

REFERENCE_INFORMATION

SSG2 Name: Autologous_Cultured_chondrocytes on matrix_Manuf_AA
Parent_substance ID: < Autologous_Cultured_Chondrocytes_ID>
SSG2_ID: WERSFG7865
Parent_Substance ID: CCHONFG7865

+ SPECIFIED_SUBSTANCE_GROUP2_NAME
 + PARENT_SUBSTANCE_ID

Including use for Release Specification

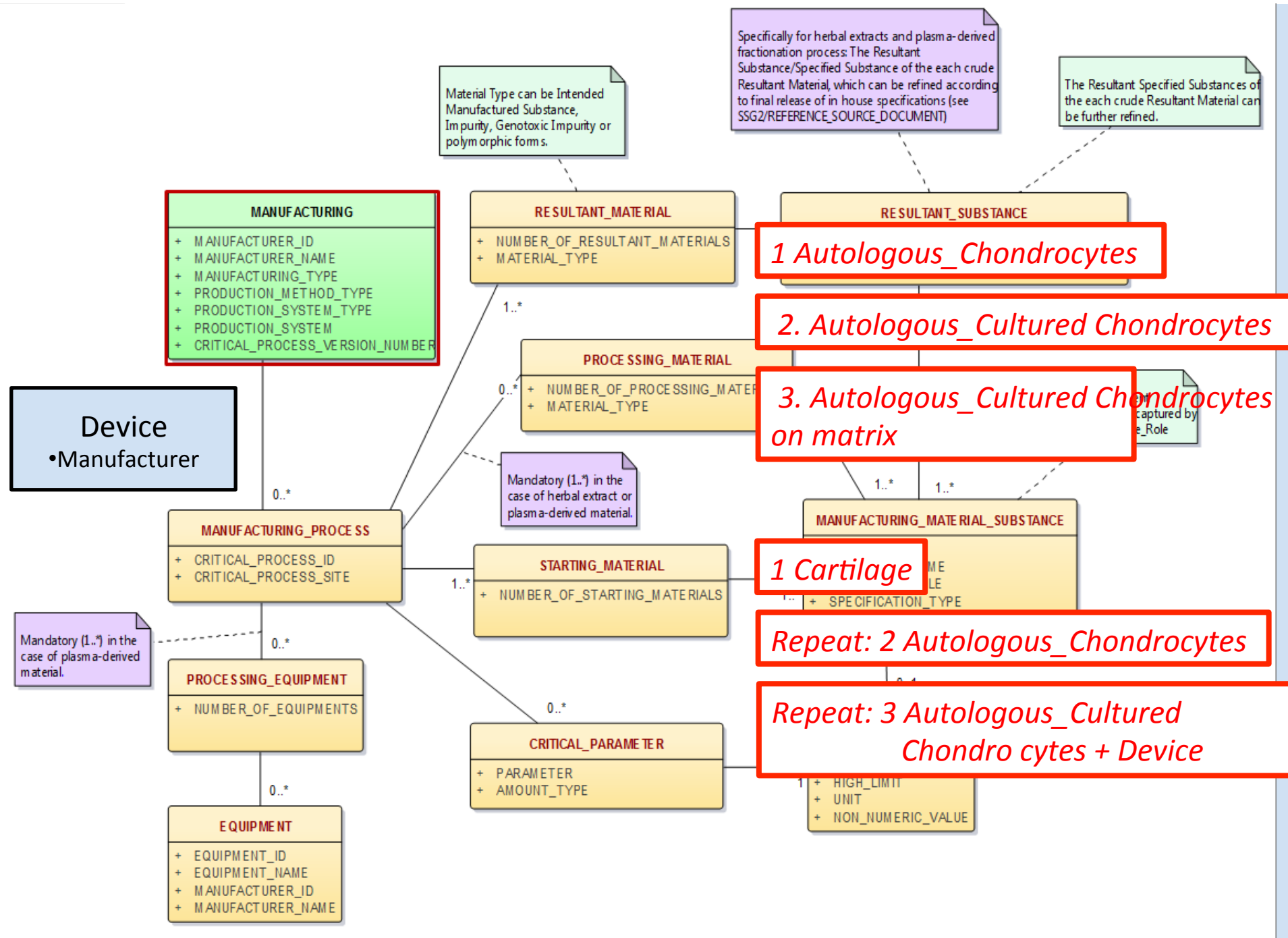
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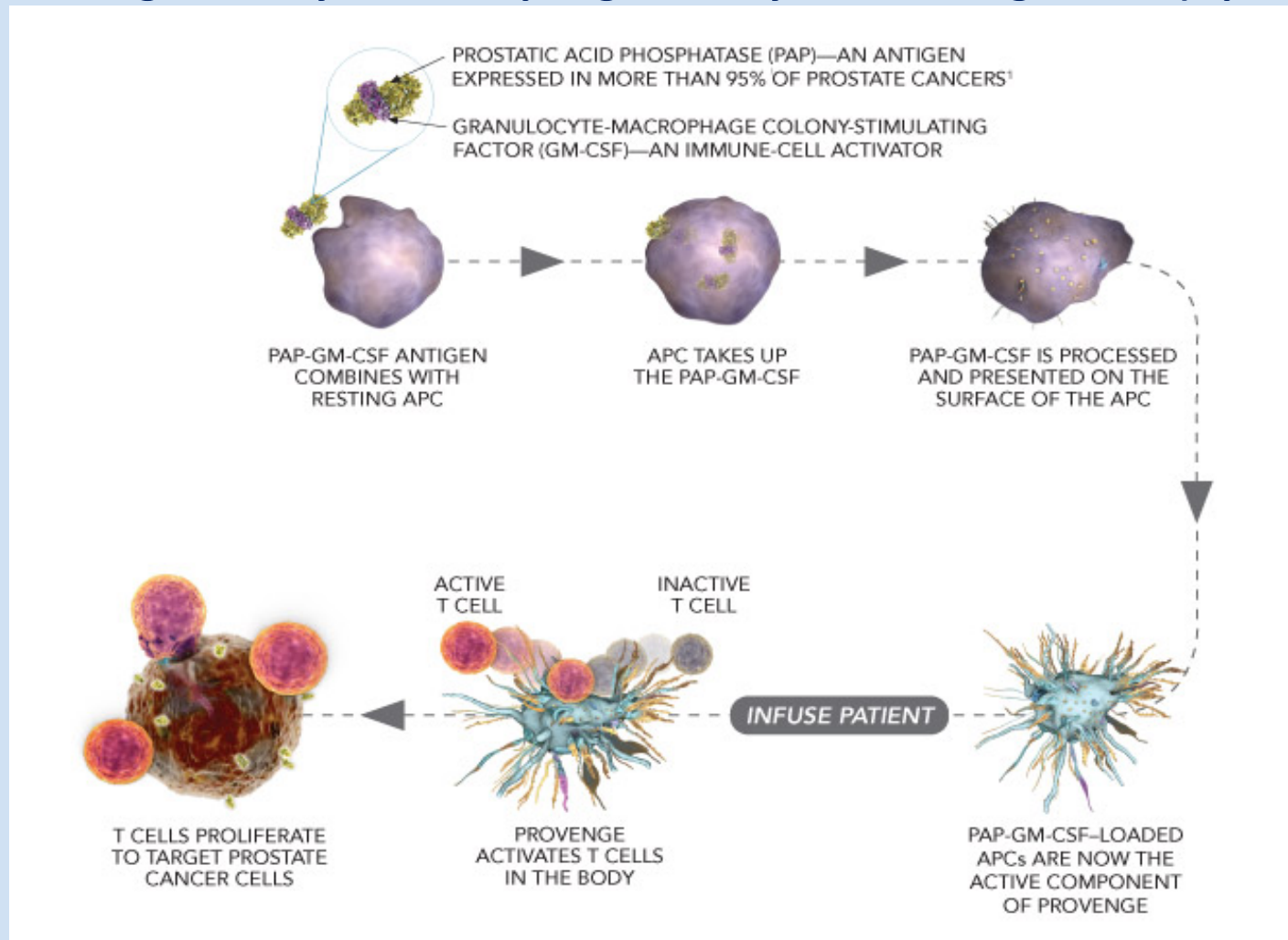
MANUFACTURING





Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products Cellular immunotherapy product: Provenge

INN: Autologous peripheral-blood mononuclear cells activated with prostatic acid phosphatase granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (sipuleucel-T)





Cellular immunotherapy product: Provenge

Active substance

- The active substance (Sipuleucel-T) consists of autologous PBMCs activated ex vivo with recombinant fusion protein PA2024.
- Fusion protein composed of prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) fused to GM-CSF (granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor).
- PAP uptake into APCs is followed by intracellular processing and presentation of PAP-derived peptides on Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) molecules to T cells.
- PBMCs include: T cells, B cells, Natural Killer (NK) cells, and APCs (including monocytes and dendritic cells (DCs)).
- Activated APCs are contained within the CD54+ cell population, which includes monocyte-derived APCs and DCs.
- DCs (the most effective APCs) represent a small percentage of all cells.
- CD54 expression is used to assess product potency of Provenge by measuring the number of CD54+ cells, and CD54 upregulation during ex vivo culture.



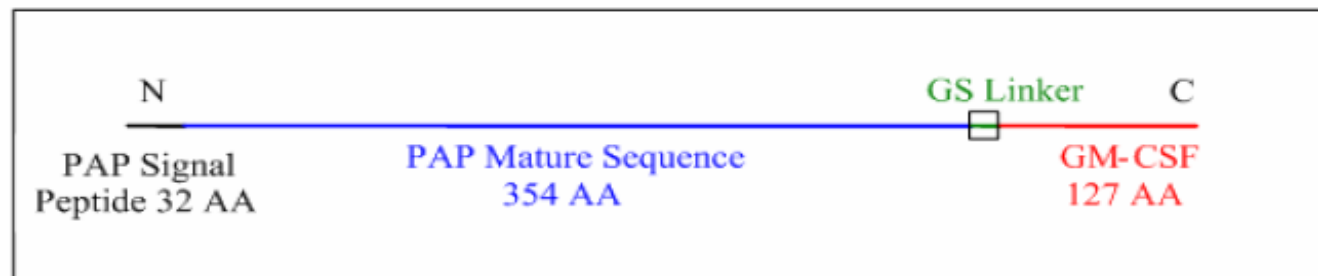
Cellular immunotherapy product: Provenge Fusion Protein

- The recombinant fusion glycoprotein is a starting material used in the manufacture of sipuleucel-T consisting of a prostatic acid phosphatase (354 AA) linked to granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (127 AA) by a glycine-serine dipeptide.
- It has 5 potential N-glycosylation sites and 1 potential O-glycosylation site.
- The molecular mass of the PA2024 is appr. 132 kDa because it exists in solution as a dimer.

PA2024 consists of the following:

- PAP signal peptide** - 32 amino acids, proteolytically removed during post-translational processing
- PAP mature protein** - 354 amino acids with three potential N-glycosylation sites (two amino acid substitutions: valine to isoleucine at residue 264 and serine to arginine at residue 384)
- Glycine/serine dipeptide synthetic linker**

Figure 1: Schematic of Precursor Form of PA2024 Fusion Protein





Cellular immunotherapy product: Provence Fusion Protein (*continued*)

Figure 2: PA2024 Amino Acid Sequence (Precursor Protein)

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1  MRAAPLLLAR  AASLSLGFLF  LLFFWLDRSV  LAKELKFVTL  VFRHGDRSPI  50
51 DTFPTDPIKE  SSWPQGFGQL  TQLGMEQHYE  LGEYIRKRYR  KFLNESYKHE  100
101 QVYIRSTDVD  RTLMSAMTNL  AALFPPEGVS  IWNPILLWQP  IPVHTVPLSE  150
151 DQLLYLPFRN  CPRFQELESE  TLKSEEFQKR  LHPYKDFIAT  LGKLSGLHGQ  200
201 DLFGIWSKVY  DPLYCESVHN  FTLPSWATED  TMTKLRELSE  LSLLSLYGIH  250
251 KQKEKSRLQG  GVLNEILNH  MKRATQIPSY  KKLIMYSAHD  TTVSGLQMAL  300
301 DVYNGLLPPY  ASCHLTELYF  EKGEYFVEMY  YRNETQHEPY  PLMLPGCSPS  350
351 CPLERFAELV  GPVIPQDWST  ECMTTNSHQG  TEDTDGSA  ARSPSPSTQP  400
401 WEHVNAIQEA  RLLNLSRDT  AAEMNETVEV  ISEMFDLQEP  TCLQTRLELY  450
451 KQGLRGLTK  LKGPLTMAS  HYKQHCPTP  ETSCATQIIT  FESFKENLKD  500
501 FLLVIPDCW  EPVQE  515
  
```

▼—Potential glycosylation sites

Cyan—PAP signal peptide, 32 amino acids

Dark blue—PAP mature protein, 354 amino acids

Orange—Amino acid substitutions

Green—Glycine/serine dipeptide synthetic linker

Pink—GM-CSF mature protein 127 amino acids

The mature PAP amino acid composition is presented

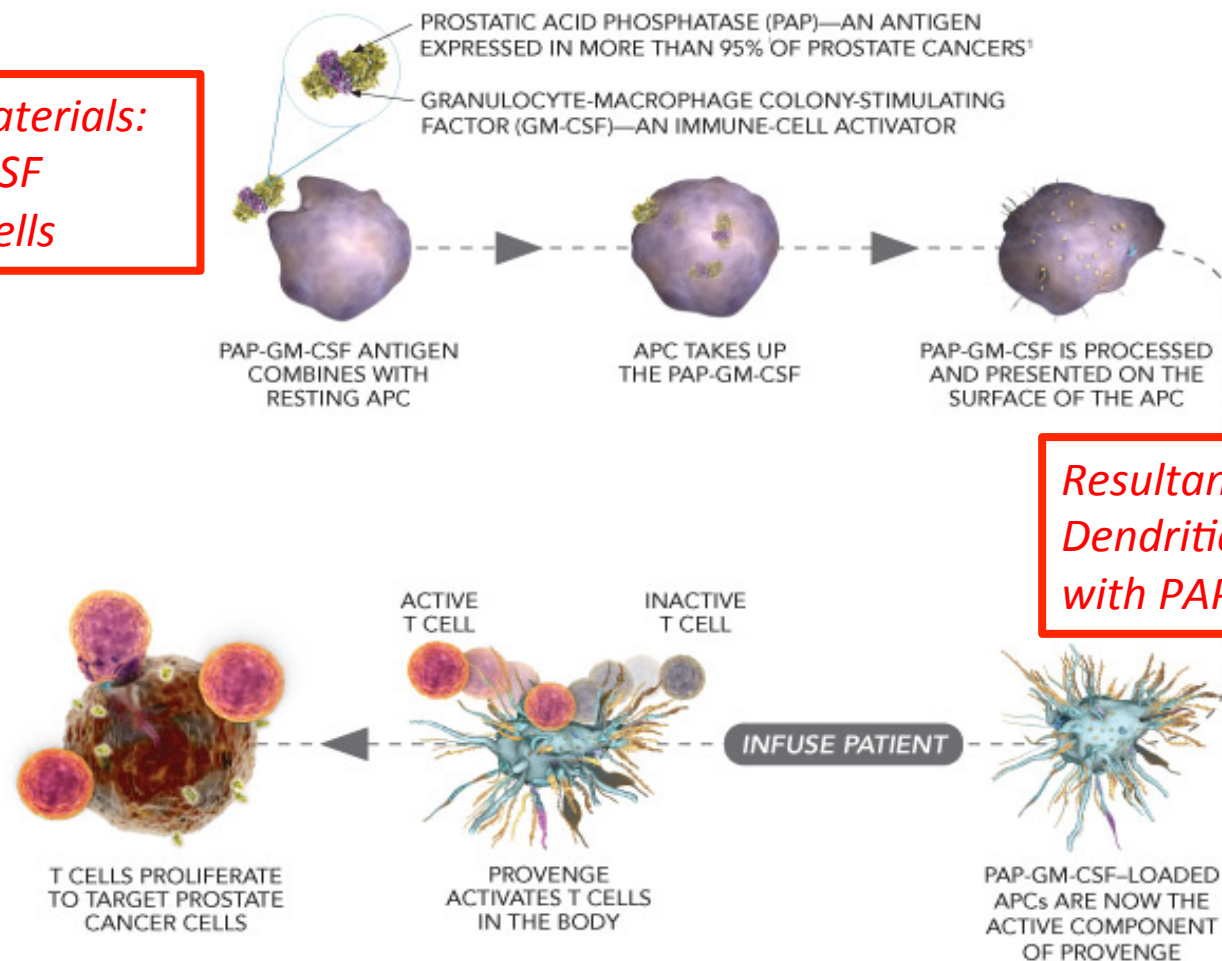
Biological activity of fusion protein has determined by measuring the bioactivity of GM-CSF using an in vitro TF-1 cell-proliferation based assay.



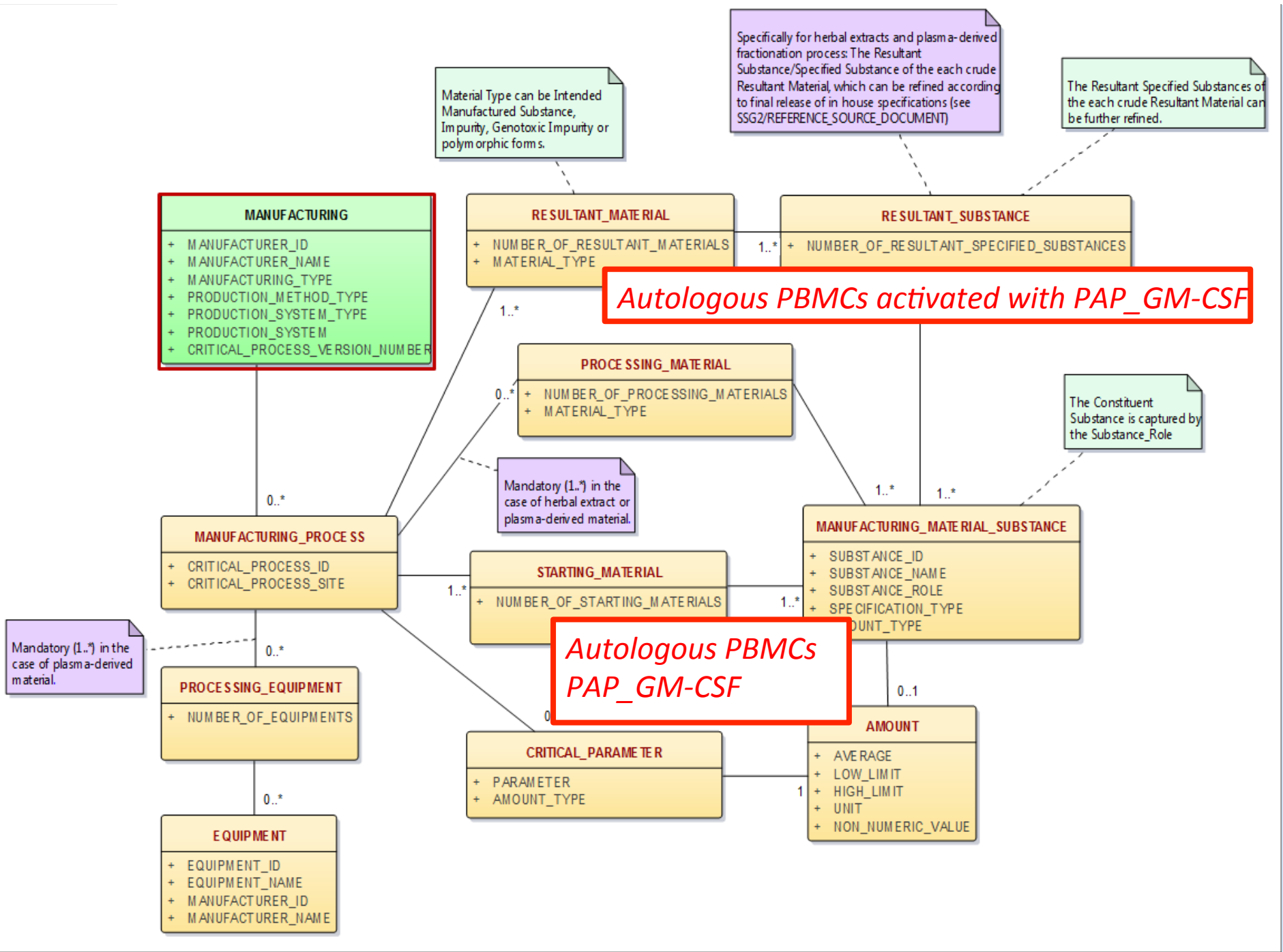
Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products Cellular immunotherapy product: Provenge

INN: Autologous peripheral-blood mononuclear cells activated with prostatic acid phosphatase granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (sipuleucel-T)

*Starting materials:
PAP_GM-CSF
Dendritic cells*



*Resultant material:
Dendritic cells activated
with PAP_GM-CSF*



Autologous PBMCs activated with PAP_GM-CSF

*Autologous PBMCs
PAP_GM-CSF*



Conclusion and Challenges

- Some cell based medicinal products (CBMP) can be captured
- Substances for CBMP can be defined
- Complete range of CBMP not yet considered
- Gene therapy medicinal products (GTMP) still to be tackled



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