

Session Objectives

- 1. Discuss and explain the basic principles of **healing, repair, and regeneration** in regards to different types of tissues (labile, stable, permanent), and differentiate some important growth factors (e.g., PDGF, VEGF, TGF-beta, FGF-2) which mediate the healing/repair process.
- 2. Describe **granulation tissue** and discuss the role of **angiogenesis** and the **importance of connective tissue elements, which include collagen**, in healing and repair.
- 3. Discuss and compare **healing by first and second intention**.
- 4. Discuss/describe **wound contraction and connective tissue remodeling**.
- 5. Give examples of tissue and organs in the process of healing/repair and **describe factors which deter that process**.

REGENERATION

- Replacement of damaged or dead cells/tissue by cells of the same type
- May occur by proliferation of differentiated cells that survive injury and retain capacity to proliferate (e.g., hepatocytes)
- May occur when tissue stem cells and their progenitors contribute to restoration of damaged tissue (e.g. skin, GI mucosa)
- Tissues with high proliferative capacity
- **Intact basement membrane...and intact immature cells**
- **Must have intact connective tissue scaffold**

Cell types based on proliferation potential

- **Labile cells:** renewing cellular populations... (continuously dividing):
 - Examples: epithelial cells, lymphoid, hematopoietic, GI mucosa
- **Stable Cells:** low rate of proliferation or no proliferation... have the ability to re-enter the cell cycle under specific stimuli (quiescent):
 - Examples: parenchymal cells, liver, kidney, smooth muscle cells, osteoblasts, chondroblasts, endothelial cells, smooth muscle, fibroblasts
- **Permanent Cells:** terminally differentiated, (nondividing):
 - Examples: neurons, cardiac muscle, skeletal muscle

GROWTH FACTORS

- Proteins which regulate cell proliferation
- Macrophages important sources - may also come from epithelial and stromal cells
- Function as ligands that bind to specific receptors which deliver signals to target cells
- Signals stimulate transcription of genes that may be silent in resting cells, including genes that control cell cycle entry and progression

IMPORTANT GROWTH FACTORS

- **PDGF** causes migration and proliferation of fibroblasts, smooth muscle cells, monocytes to inflammatory areas and healing skin wounds
- **VEGF** important in **new blood vessel formation (angiogenesis)**, promotes angiogenesis in chronic inflammation, wound healing, and tumors
- **FGF-2** contributes to re-epithelialization of skin wounds, induces new blood vessel formation, etc.
- **TGF-beta** is potent fibrogenic agent - stimulates fibroblast chemotaxis, enhances production of collagen, fibronectin, and proteoglycans; inhibits collagen degradation, anti-inflammatory

Growth Factor	Sources	Functions
Epidermal growth factor (EGF)	Activated macrophages, salivary glands, keratinocytes, many other cells	Mitogenic for many cell types; stimulates epithelial cell migration; stimulates formation of granulation tissue
Transforming growth factor- α (TGF- α)	Activated macrophages, keratinocytes, many other cells	Stimulates proliferation of hepatocytes and many other epithelial cells
Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) (scatter factor)	Fibroblasts, stromal cells in the liver, endothelial cells	Enhances proliferation of hepatocytes and other epithelial cells; increases cell motility
Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)	Mesenchymal cells	Stimulates proliferation of endothelial cells; increases vascular permeability
Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF)	Platelets, macrophages, endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells, keratinocytes	Chemotactic for neutrophils, macrophages, fibroblasts, and smooth muscle cells; activates and stimulates proliferation of fibroblasts, endothelial cells, and other cells; stimulates ECM protein synthesis
Fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) including acidic (FGF-1) and basic (FGF-2)	Macrophages, mast cells, endothelial cells, many other cell types	Chemotactic and mitogenic for fibroblasts; stimulates angiogenesis and ECM protein synthesis
Transforming growth factor-β (TGF-β)	Platelets, T lymphocytes, macrophages, endothelial cells, epithelial cells, smooth muscle cells, fibroblasts	Chemotactic for leukocytes and fibroblasts; stimulates ECM protein synthesis; suppresses acute inflammation
Keratinocyte growth factor (KGF) (i.e., FGF-7)	Fibroblasts	Stimulates keratinocyte migration, proliferation, and differentiation

Robbins and Cotran, Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th ed., 2020, Table 1.1

REPAIR BY CONNECTIVE TISSUE DEPOSITION (SCAR)

- Inflammation
- Angiogenesis
- Migration and proliferation of fibroblasts
- Scar formation
- Connective tissue remodeling
- Prototype – skin
- **Most healing is combination of regeneration and repair; depends on ability of tissue cells to proliferate, integrity of ECM, resolution or chronicity of injury or inflammation**

Robbins and Cotran, Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th ed., 2020, Ch. 3

GRANULATION TISSUE

- Migration, **proliferation of fibroblasts and deposition of loose connective tissue along with new vessels and leukocytes (mostly macrophages)**
- New vessel formation - angiogenesis
- Type III collagen (immature) synthesis
- Cellular-cellular interactions via (growth) factors
- Sit in ECM: glycoproteins and proteoglycans
- Glycoproteins- for cross linking of collagen fibers to make stronger
- Proteoglycans – for hydrated gel formation (increased tissue turgor)

ANGIOGENESIS

- **VEGF** – most important growth factor, especially in chronic inflammation, wound healing, and tumors; promotes vasodilation by stimulating production of NO; also increases vessel permeability
- **VEGF-A** - most important in angiogenesis; stimulates survival, proliferation and motility of endothelial cells, initiating sprouting of new capillaries, promotes vasodilation and contributes to vessel lumen formation
- **FGF-2** stimulates proliferation of endothelial cells and promotes migration of macrophages and fibroblasts to damaged area
- **Newly formed vessels fragile**, stabilization requires recruitment of pericytes and smooth muscle cells and deposition of ECM proteins; angiopoietins 1 and 2, PDGF, and TGF-beta participate in stabilization and these processes

Robbins and Cotran, Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th ed., 2020, Ch. 3



Phase III: Maturation

- **Type III collagen is replaced by type I**
 - Acquires final tensile strength
- **Remodeling: scar tissue becomes avascular and acellular**
- Wound contraction- wound edges pull together to close the defect
 - **Myofibroblasts**- fibroblasts with muscle filaments
 - Display features of fibroblasts and smooth muscle cells



Healing by combinations of regeneration and repair

- Best example - skin wound
- Healing by **first intention or primary union** (epithelial regeneration):
 - When injury **only involves epithelial layer**
 - Clean skin wounds (e.g., **surgical excision**) – death of limited number of epithelial and connective tissue cells
- Healing by **second intention**
 - Edges of skin cannot be brought together
 - **tissue loss greater**
 - epidermal cells need longer time to cover surface
 - **more intense inflammatory reaction**
 - **abundant granulation tissue, extensive collagen deposition forming substantial scar**

REGENERATION OF THE LIVER

Partial hepatectomy of 60% of the liver → doubling of the size of the liver remnant within 1 month

- Mechanism= proliferation of remaining hepatocytes and repopulation from progenitor cells
- Situation where proliferative capacity of hepatocytes is impaired (e.g chronic liver injury)
- NOT regrowth of the lobes that were resected
- **Primary phase** – hepatocytes primed by cytokines made by Kupffer cells (macrophages) to receive and respond to GF signals
- **Growth factor phase** – hepatocytes are stimulated into metabolism
- **Termination phase** – hepatocytes return to quiescence

Robbins and Cotran, Pathologic Basis of Disease, 10th ed., 2020, Ch. 3

HEALING – REVIEW (continued)

- 24 to 48 hours - epithelial cells move from wound edge along cut margins of dermis, deposit basement membrane components; produce thin, continuous epithelial layer
- Increase in collagen fibrils to bridge incision
- Fibroblasts, vascular endothelial cells proliferate to form **granulation tissue** by **5 to 7 days**, fills wound, neovascularization maximal
- Wbc infiltrate, edema, increased vascularity disappear by second week
- **TGF-beta is most important fibrogenic agent: causes fibroblast migration and proliferation, increased synthesis of collagen and fibronectin, and decreased ECM degradation by MMPs**

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HEALING REVIEW (continued)

- Increased collagen accumulation and regression of vascular channels – original granulation tissue scaffold converted to **pale, avascular scar made up of fibroblasts, dense collagen, elastic tissue, other ECM components**
- By end of first/second month – scar is composed of **acellular connective tissue without inflammation, covered by intact epithelium**

Summary Slide

- Definitions of healing, repair, regeneration
- Labile, stable, permanent cells – see slide 6
- Three phases of wound healing
- Repair by scar – granulation tissue, angiogenesis, connective tissue deposition (collagen and ECM)
- Example of skin injury – healing by primary and secondary intention
- Wound contraction, connective tissue remodeling, tensile strength
- Liver regeneration, examples of repair and healing
- Deterrents to wound healing – see slide 38
- Complications of wound healing – slides 39 - 42