

**ALPHA-L-IDURONIDASE TRANSDUCED
MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS AS A THERAPY FOR
THE TREATMENT OF CNS DEGENERATION IN
MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS TYPE I MICE**

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Table of contents

Abstract.....	vii
Declaration.....	ix
Acknowledgements.....	x
Abbreviations	xi
Chapter One: Introduction.....	1
1.0 Overview	2
1.1 The Mucopolysaccharidoses	3
1.1.1 Mucopolysaccharidoses type I.....	5
1.1.2 Central Nervous System (CNS) pathology	7
1.1.3 Bone pathology	9
1.2 Therapies	10
1.2.1 Current therapies	11
1.2.1.1 Mechanisms for enzyme targeting	11
1.2.1.2 Bone marrow transplant	14
1.2.1.3 Enzyme replacement therapy.....	16
1.2.2 Potential therapies	17
1.2.2.1 Gene therapy.....	17
1.2.2.2 Substrate deprivation therapy	18
1.2.2.3 Stem cell therapy.....	19
1.3 Mesenchymal stem cells.....	20
1.3.1 Isolation and characterisation	23
1.3.2 MSCs for therapeutic use	24
1.3.3 Homing and immunomodulation.....	26
1.3.4 Immunosuppression	27
1.3.4.1 Cyclosporin mediated immunosuppression	28
1.4 MPS animal models	28
1.4.1 MPS I murine model	29
1.5 Behaviour testing in rodents	31
1.5.1 Inverted grid.....	31
1.5.2 Rotarod.....	33
1.5.3 Open field.....	33
1.5.4 Water cross maze	34
1.6 Hypothesis and Aims	35
1.6.1 Significance.....	36
Chapter Two: Materials and Methods.....	37
2.2 In vitro experimentation	38
2.2.1 Cell line basal growth media	38
2.2.1.1 Cell line culture.....	38
2.2.2 Determination of enzyme activity	39
2.2.2.1 Sample collection.....	39
2.2.2.2 Fluorogenic substrates.....	39
2.2.2.3 Radio-labelled substrates.....	39
2.2.2.4 Bradford protein assay.....	40
2.2.3 Virus production.....	40
2.2.3.1 Plasmid preparation	40

2.2.3.1.1	<i>pUC57-mmIdua purification</i>	40
2.2.3.1.2	<i>pHIV-EF1aluciferase purification</i>	41
2.2.3.2	<i>Vector and insert ligation</i>	41
2.2.3.3	<i>Transformation of sure E.coli cells</i>	41
2.2.3.4	<i>Miniprep</i>	42
2.2.3.4.1	<i>Restriction enzyme digest of plasmid</i>	42
2.2.3.5	<i>Midiprep</i>	43
2.2.3.5.1	<i>DNA sequencing</i>	43
2.2.3.6	<i>Gigaprep</i>	43
2.2.3.7	<i>Virus preparation</i>	43
2.2.3.8	<i>Viral transfection</i>	44
2.2.3.9	<i>Transduction efficiency</i>	45
2.2.4	<i>Mannose-6-phosphate mediated cross correction</i>	45
2.2.4.1	<i>Over-expression of enzyme in hDP or hBM MSCs</i>	45
2.2.4.2	<i>Cross-correction by addition of hDP or hBM derived enzyme</i>	45
2.2.4.3	<i>³⁵SO₄ incorporation</i>	46
2.2.5	<i>Stable β-D-glucuronidase transduction without splitting</i>	46
2.2.5.1	<i>Stable β-glucuronidase transduction with continual splitting</i>	47
2.2.5.2	<i>Vector copy number per cell</i>	47
2.2.6	<i>Stem cell differentiation</i>	47
2.2.6.1	<i>Osteogenic differentiation</i>	47
2.2.6.1.1	<i>Osteogenic quantification</i>	48
2.2.6.2	<i>Adipogenic differentiation</i>	48
2.2.6.2.1	<i>Adipogenic quantification</i>	48
2.2.6.3	<i>Chondrogenic differentiation</i>	49
2.2.6.3.1	<i>Chondrogenic quantification</i>	49
2.2.6.4	<i>Neurogenic differentiation</i>	50
2.2.6.4.1	<i>Neurogenic quantification</i>	50
2.3	MPS I husbandry	50
2.3.1	<i>MPS I genotyping</i>	51
2.3.1.1	<i>Toe lysis</i>	51
2.3.1.2	<i>Polymerase chain reaction</i>	51
2.3.1.3	<i>Gel electrophoresis</i>	52
2.3.2	<i>Treatment administration</i>	52
2.3.2.1	<i>Cyclosporin immunosuppression</i>	52
2.3.2.2	<i>Stem cell transfection and harvest</i>	54
2.3.2.3	<i>Stem cell administration</i>	54
2.4	Behaviour testing	55
2.4.1	<i>Animal usage</i>	55
2.4.2	<i>Inverted grid</i>	55
2.4.3	<i>Rotarod</i>	55
2.4.4	<i>Open field</i>	59
2.4.5	<i>Water cross maze</i>	59
2.5	Biochemical analysis	63
2.5.1	<i>Mouse sacrifice and tissue collection</i>	63
2.5.2	<i>Sample usage</i>	64
2.5.3	<i>Tissue extraction</i>	65
2.5.4	<i>α-L-iduronidase enzyme assay</i>	65
2.5.5	<i>β-hexosaminidase enzyme assay</i>	65
2.5.6	<i>Uronic acid assay</i>	66
2.5.7	<i>Bicinchoninic acid protein assay</i>	66
2.6	Real-time PCR	67
2.6.1	<i>Genomic DNA purification</i>	67
2.6.2	<i>Human genome specific detection</i>	67
2.6.3	<i>Beta-2-microglobulin staining</i>	67

2.7	Inflammatory mediators in the brain	68
2.7.1	Real-Time PCR	68
2.7.1.1	<i>RNA extraction and cDNA generation</i>	<i>68</i>
2.7.1.2	<i>Real-Time PCR analysis</i>	<i>69</i>
2.7.2	Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) immunohistochemistry	69
2.8	Electron microscopy	71
2.8.1	Electron microscopy embedding	71
2.8.2	Electron microscopy cutting	71
2.9	Bone morphology	72
2.9.1	Animal usage.....	72
2.9.2	Radiographs	72
2.10	Statistics	73
Chapter Three: MSCs <i>in vitro</i> capacity to over-express MPS lysosomal enzymes and maintain differentiation potential		74
3.1	Introduction.....	75
3.2	Endogenous production of MPS lysosomal enzymes.....	76
3.3	Over-expression of α-L-iduronidase, sulphamidase, 4-sulfatase and β-D-glucuronidase in MSCs versus HSCs	79
3.3.1	Transduction efficiency	79
3.3.2	Over-expression of MPS lysosomal enzymes.....	81
3.3.3	Mannose-6-phosphate mediated cross-correction of MPS I, IIIA and VII fibroblasts with hDP and hBM MSC derived enzyme.....	83
3.3.4	β -D-glucuronidase over-expression and transduction over eight weeks in culture	83
3.3.4.1	<i>Over-expression of β-D-glucuronidase in MSCs over eight weeks in vitro</i>	<i>85</i>
3.3.4.2	<i>Stable transduction of β-D-glucuronidase over eight weeks in vitro</i>	<i>85</i>
3.3.5	Tri-lineage differentiation of transduced MSCs	88
3.3.5.1	<i>Osteogenic differentiation</i>	<i>91</i>
3.3.5.2	<i>Adipogenic differentiation.....</i>	<i>92</i>
3.3.5.3	<i>Chondrogenic differentiation</i>	<i>92</i>
3.3.5.4	<i>Neuronal differentiation.....</i>	<i>93</i>
3.4	Discussion.....	95
3.4.1	Endogenous ability of MSCs succeeds HSCs.....	97
3.4.2	MSCs are more amenable to lentiviral over-expression	98
3.4.3	Lentiviral manipulation does not alter pluripotency of MSCs	100
3.4.4	Chapter conclusions and future directions	101
Chapter Four: Biodistribution of hDP IDUA and hBM IDUA MSCs in MPS I mice.....		104
4.1	Introduction.....	105
4.2	Tissue weights.....	106
4.3	Biodistribution of mesenchymal stem cells.....	108
4.3.1	Human specific real-time PCR	108
4.3.2	Human specific immunohistochemistry	111
4.4	Biochemical analysis	111
4.4.1	α -L-iduronidase assay	113
4.4.2	β -hexosaminidase assay	113
4.4.3	Uronic acid assay	116
4.4.4	Toluidine blue staining.....	116
4.5	Discussion.....	119
4.5.1	MSCs evade the lung following vasodilation	119
4.5.2	Short-term somatic improvements following MSC administration	122
4.5.3	Chapter conclusions and future directions	123

Chapter Five: The effect of MSC treatment on MPS I mouse behaviour . 125

5.1	Introduction.....	126
5.2	Treatment efficacy in reducing behavioural abnormalities.....	127
5.2.1	Animal health status	129
5.2.2	Neuromuscular strength	133
5.2.3	Motor coordination and balance	135
5.2.4	Activity and anxiety levels	136
5.2.4.1	Activity levels	138
5.2.4.2	Anxiety levels	140
5.2.5	Learning	142
5.2.5.1	Escape latency	142
5.2.5.2	Incorrect entries.....	144
5.2.5.3	Correct entries	146
5.3	Discussion.....	148
5.3.1	Side-effects of cyclosporin-mediated immunosuppression.....	149
5.3.2	MSC administration resulted in improved functional performance	151
5.3.3	Daily handling limited exploratory and anxiety behaviour.....	154
3.5.4	Chapter conclusions and future directions	155

Chapter Six: The effect of MSC treatment on MPS I biochemistry, bone morphology and brain inflammation 156

6.1	Introduction.....	157
6.2	Animal and tissue weights.....	159
6.2.1	Body weight	159
6.2.2	Tissue weight	161
6.3	Distribution of mesenchymal stem cells.....	164
6.3.1	Real-time PCR	165
6.3.2	Immunohistochemistry staining	165
6.4	Biochemical analysis.....	168
6.4.1	α -L-iduronidase assay	168
6.4.2	β -hexosaminidase assay	170
6.4.3	Gag storage	173
6.4.3.1	Uronic acid assay.....	175
6.4.3.2	Toluidine blue staining.....	175
6.5	Bone (L5 vertebrae) morphology	179
6.6	Brain inflammation.....	182
6.6.1	Inflammatory gene expression.....	182
6.6.2	Astroglial activation immunohistochemistry	184
6.7	Discussion.....	188
6.7.1	MSC persist within multiple MPS I affected organs	189
6.7.2	MSCs influence on MPS I somatic pathology is limited	190
6.7.3	MSCs anti-inflammatory role in MPS I brain disease	192
6.7.4	Skeletal phenotype of MPS I was partially attenuated by MSC treatment.....	194
6.7.5	Chapter conclusions and future directions	195

Chapter Seven: Discussion..... 197

7.1	MSC treatment for MPS	198
7.1.2	MSCs hold a greater potential than HSCs for combating the multi-system pathology of MPS.....	198
7.2	MSC over-expressing α-L-iduronidase improve multiple facets of MPS I pathology.....	201
7.2.1	MPS I treatments currently in clinical use	203
7.3	Future directions.....	205

Appendix One: Materials list.....	207
Appendix Two: Publications.....	212
References.....	213

Abstract

Mucopolysaccharidosis type I (MPS I) is an autosomal recessive disorder that is characterised by a deficiency in the α -L-iduronidase (IDUA) enzyme, resulting in the accumulation of undegraded heparan sulphate and dermatan sulphate glycosaminoglycans (gags) within the lysosome of nearly every cell. MPS I is a multi-tissue and organ disease, presenting with profound mental retardation and skeletal abnormalities. Haematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplant and enzyme replacement therapy, two clinically available forms of treatment, are able to correct the soft tissue aspects of MPS disease, but have had a limited effect on the more complex skeletal and neurological symptoms. Stem cell therapy utilizing mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) has the potential to overcome these limitations due to their ability to differentiate into cells that are the major sites of MPS pathology.

MSCs naturally produce and secrete significantly higher levels of multiple MPS enzymes than HSCs *in vitro* and can be engineered to over-express multiple MPS enzymes using a lentiviral system. MSCs were found to secrete up to 5,559 fold greater IDUA enzyme after lentiviral transduction *in vitro*, suggesting a greater potential to cross-correct MPS pathology than HSCs. Lentiviral transduction was stable and persistent *in vitro*, and over-expression of MPS enzyme did not affect MSC *in vitro* differentiation down osteogenic, adipogenic, chondrogenic or neurogenic lineages.

Systemically administered human derived MSCs distribute widely, to multiple MPS I affected organs, including the brain, and persist *in vivo* for at least two months post administration. Significantly elevated brain and serum IDUA activity was observed two and six months post administration, respectively, and was associated with sustained functional improvements in

neuromuscular strength, motor control, coordination and spatial learning. MSCs were found to limit astroglial activation and modulate brain inflammatory gene expression of *Cd68*, *Gfap* and *Tnf* *in vivo*. Vertebral body width also returned towards normal. However, no improvement in gag storage or elevations of IDUA were observed in other tissues.

For the first time, this thesis has investigated the biochemical and behavioural changes due to *i.v.* administered hMSCs in MPS I mice. This thesis demonstrates that MSCs can exert added neurological improvements in MPS I pathology through exhibiting a combined effect between their superior enzyme secretion and anti-inflammatory effects. While minimal changes were noted in MPS I associated somatic pathology, MSCs could be administered in combination with already implemented ERT and/or BMT, which have both shown resolution in patients stored gag, therefore providing additional clinical benefits to MPS I children.

Declaration

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Abbreviations

IDUA/ <i>IDUA/Idua</i>	α -L-iduronidase
α -MEM	Minimum essential medium (α modified)
AAV	Adeno-associated-virus
BMT	Bone marrow transplant
BBB	Blood brain barrier
<i>Cd68</i>	CD68 antigen
CNS	Central nervous system
<i>Ccl3</i>	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 3
CS	Chondroitin sulphate
<i>CycpA</i>	Cyclophilin A
DAPI	4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole
DS	Dermatan sulphate
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified eagle medium
ERT	Enzyme replacement therapy
FCS	Foetal calf serum
FACS	Fluorescence-activated cell sorting
FITC	Fluorescein isothiocyanate
GT	Gene therapy
GFAP/ <i>Gfap</i>	Glial fibrillary acidic protein
gag(s)	Glycosaminoglycan(s)

GvHD	Graft-versus-host disease
Hep	Heparin
HSC(s)	Haematopoietic stem cell(s)
HS	Heparan sulphate
hBM	Human derived bone marrow
hDP	Human derived dental pulp
HA	Hyaluronan
<i>i.v.</i>	Intravenous
<i>Ifnγ</i>	Interferon gamma
<i>Il1β</i>	Interleukin 1 beta
KS	Keratan sulphate
M6P	Mannose-6-phosphate
M6PR	Mannose-6-phosphate receptor
MSC(s)	Mesenchymal stem/stromal cell(s)
MPS	Mucopolysaccharidosis
MPS I	Mucopolysaccharidosis type I
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
SDT	Substrate deprivation therapy
SHIRPA	SmithKline Beecham, Harwell, Imperial College, Royal London Hospital, phenotype assessment
SUMF1	Sulphatase modifying factor 1
<i>Tgfβ1</i>	Transforming growth factor beta 1

Tnf α

Tumor necrosis factor alpha