

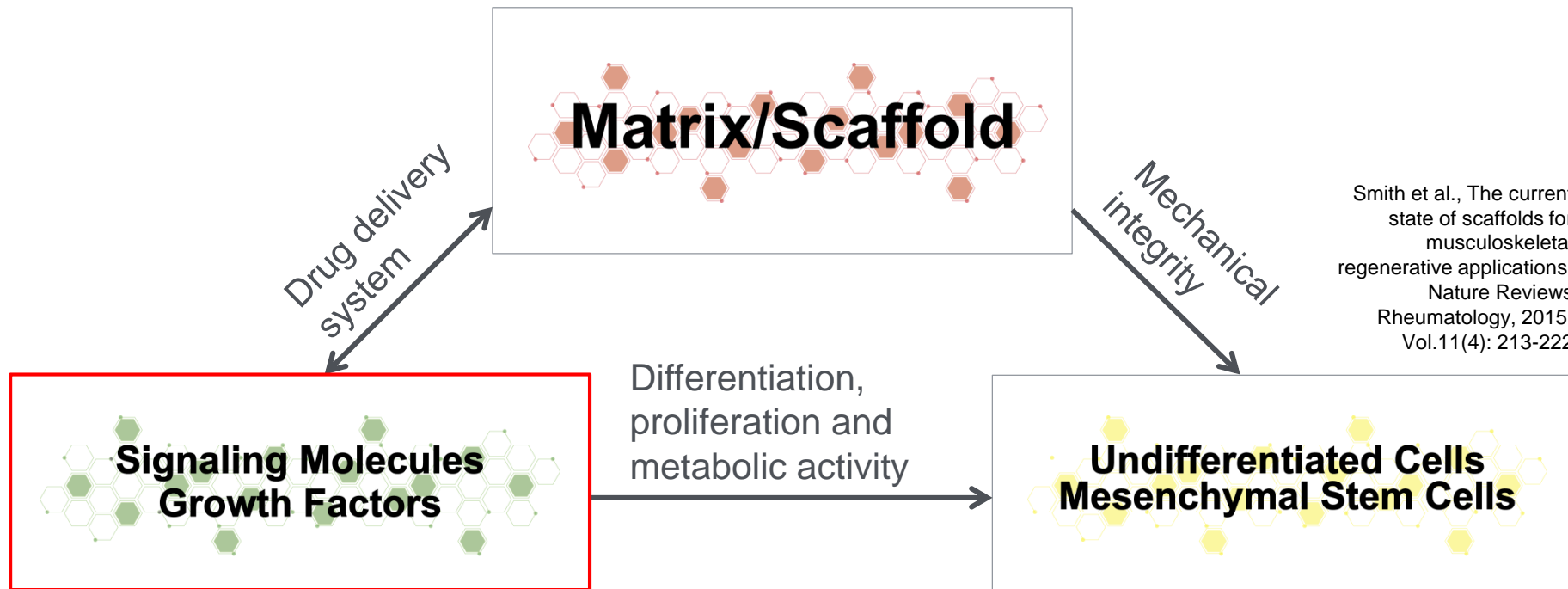
**ACP/PRP – Present knowledge and evidence**

**ACP Tendo, New Generation of Tendon Healing**

Sabine Schaumann



# Orthobiology Healing Triad



Smith et al., The current state of scaffolds for musculoskeletal regenerative applications; Nature Reviews Rheumatology, 2015, Vol.11(4): 213-222

# Healing Triad

## Platelets – Source of Growth Factors

### High Concentration of Platelets Found in:

---

Bone Marrow

---

Whole Blood

---

### Platelets Contain ~4000 Proteins

---

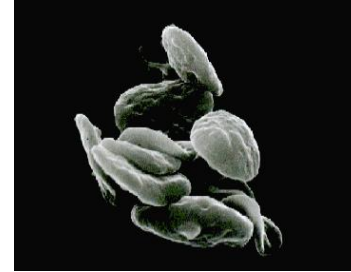
$\alpha$ -granules: > 300 different growth factors

---

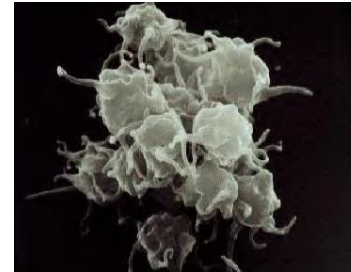
D-granules: serotonin, ADP

---

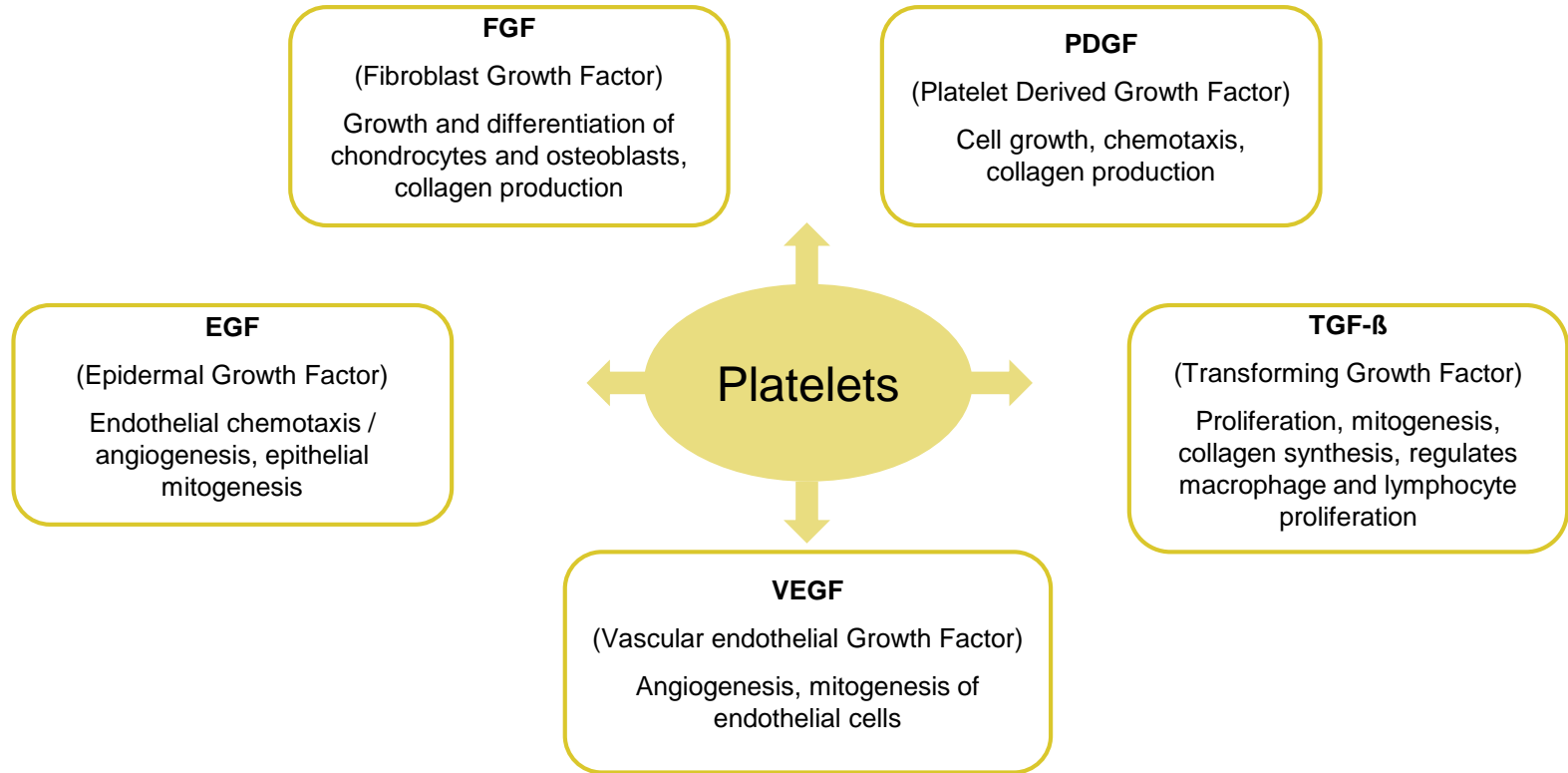
Rubio-Azpeitia, Andia et al., Partnership between platelet-rich plasma and mesenchymal stem cells: in vitro experience; Muscles, Ligaments and Tendons Journal, 2014, Vol.4(1):52-62



**Activation**



# Growth Factors in Platelets



# Growth Factors in Plasma

679 proteins documented

- Fibronectin, fibrin, vitronectin

➤ promotion of chemotaxis of stem cells

- Plasma calcium

➤ activator, regulator for extracellular reactions

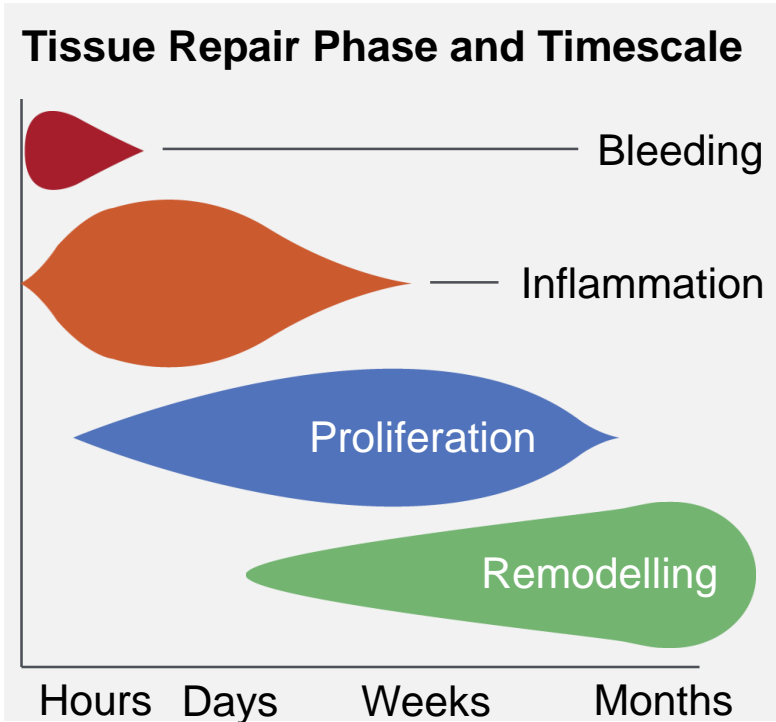
- Hormones, IGF-1

➤ enhance tendon and cartilage healing

- Glucocorticoids

➤ decrease production or activity of inflammatory mediators

# Healing Cascade – Role of Platelets / Growth Factors



### Inflammation



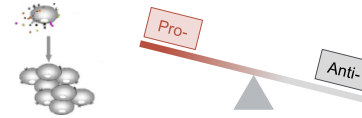
Leukocyte traffic,  
CXCL7, CXCL5, CXCL1, PF4  
Macrophage activation PF4, CD40L  
Termination of inflammation HGF, TGFb

### angiogenesis



Pro-angiogenic: VEGF, CXCL12, HGF,  
angiopoietins, FGF, PDGF, MMP-1, -2,  
-9, CD40L, EGF  
Anti-: TIMP1-4, TSP-1, PF-4, angiostatin,  
endostatin

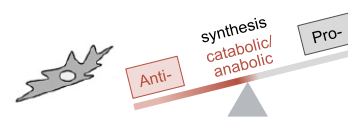
### Migration, proliferation



Mitogenic factors:  
PDGF (A, B and C), EGF, IGF-I, II,  
CTGF, VEGF, HGF, IGFBP3, BMP-2

Proteases and fibrinolytic:  
MMP-1, -2, -4, uPA, PAI-1

### Local cells/fibroblasts



Extracellular matrix  
Anabolism/catabolism  
TGFb, IGF-I, -II, MMPs, ADAMT13,  
10,17

Andia et al.: Basic Science: Molecular and Biological Aspects of Platelet-Rich Plasma Therapies, Oper Tech Orthop, 2012

# Inflammation to Proliferation

## Secretion of cytokines

- e.g. CXCL-7-precursor
- Chemoattractant and activator for neutrophils

## Trafficking of Leukocytes and Monocytes

- PF 4
- Prevention of monocyte apoptosis, promotion of macrophage differentiation

Dying cell removal / matrix destruction

## Secretion of cytokines

- HGF, VEGF, TGF- $\beta$
- Restoring cells to noninflammatory phenotype

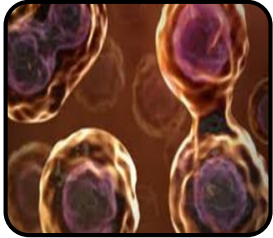
## Decrease pro-inflammatory proteins / increase anti-inflammatory proteins

- HGF
- Decrease of IL-6  $\leftrightarrow$  Increase of IL-10
- Inhibits NF $\kappa$ B

Termination of the inflammation

HGF is primarily found in plasma – consider ratio of platelets to plasma in your PRP

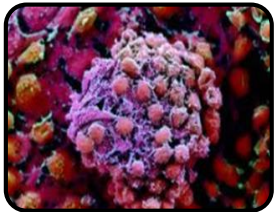
# Proliferation



## Fibrinolytic Factors

(e.g. uPA)

- Regulation of pericellular environment
- Modify pathways that impact proliferation / migration



## Growth Factors

(e.g. TGF- $\beta$ , IGF, FGF)

- Induce differentiation of progenitor cells
- Induce angiogenesis



# Remodeling

Release of MMPs (inactive form)

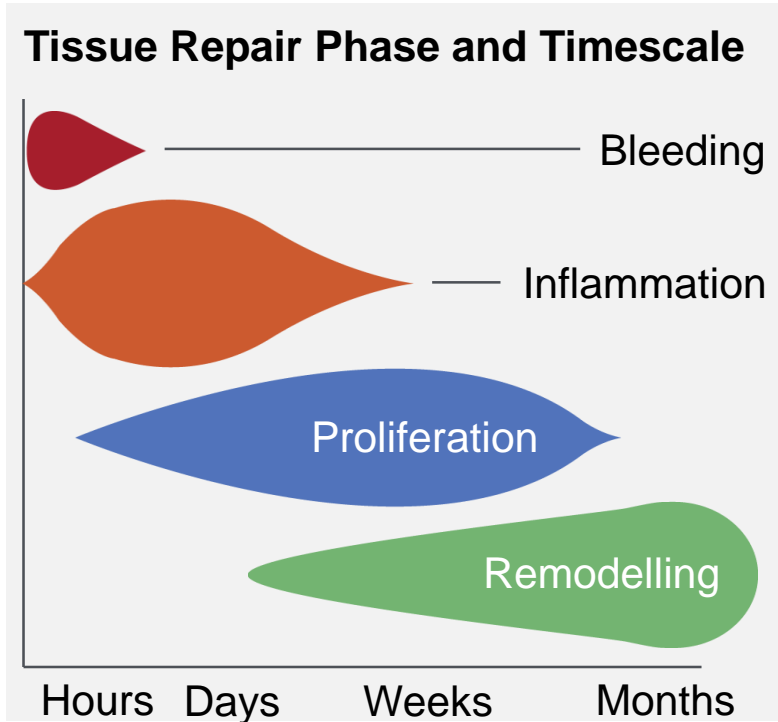
- Activity regulated by microenvironment

Matrix destruction

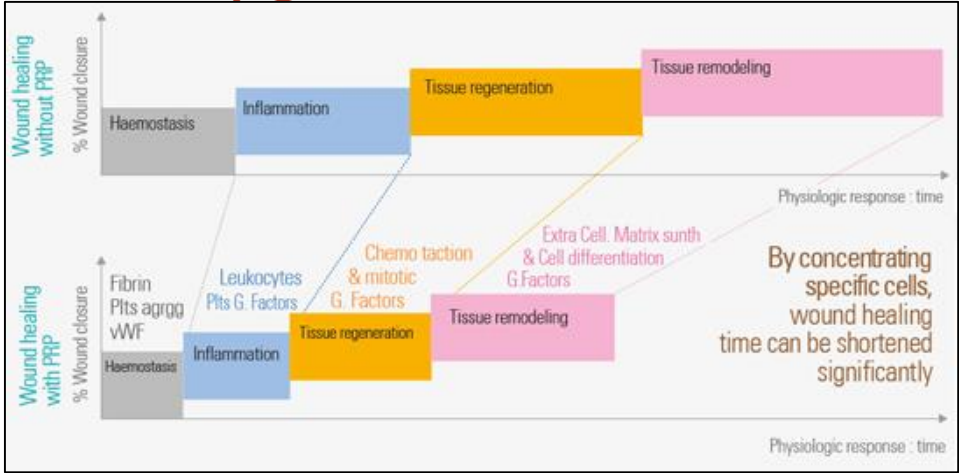
- Release of Growth Factors and Cytokines

Remodeling according to tissue-context

# PRP – Mode of Action



**Goal:**  
 Create a „Healing Cocktail“  
 for enhanced tissue repair  
 PRP = Platelet Rich Plasma



# PRP – How is it done and what to consider?

## Mass density distribution of blood components

A – Platelets

B – Monocytes

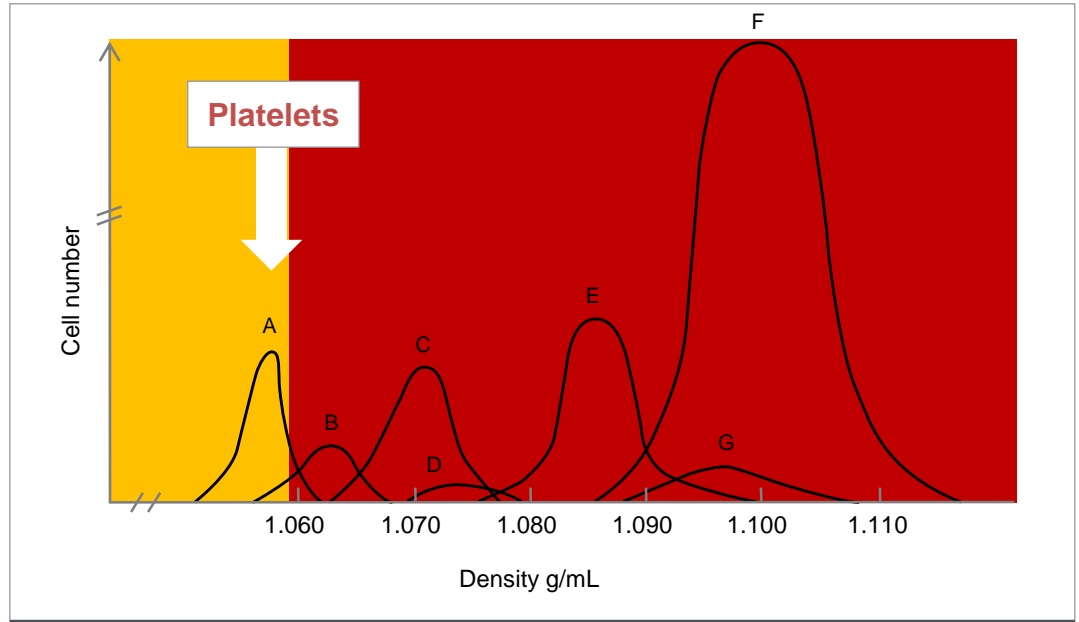
C – Lymphocytes

D – Basophils

E – Neutrophils

F – Erythrocytes

G – Eosinophils



# Frequently asked questions

**TABLE 1 Variables in PRP treatment**

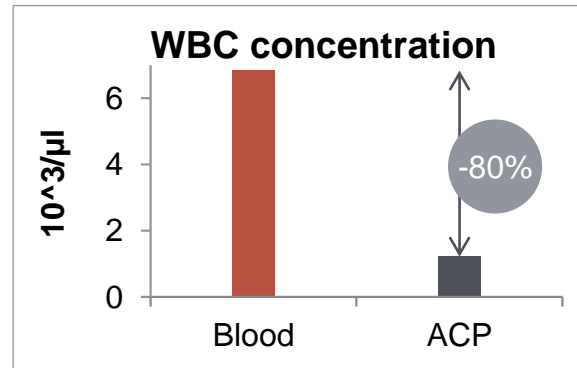
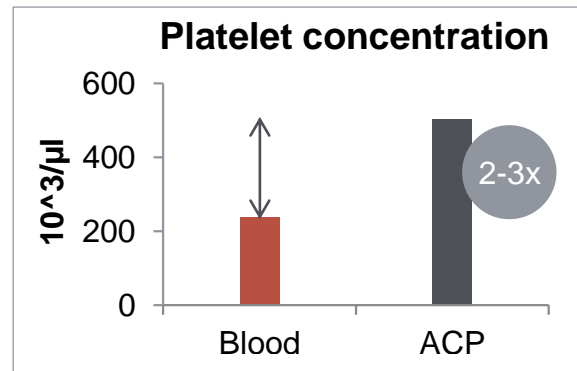
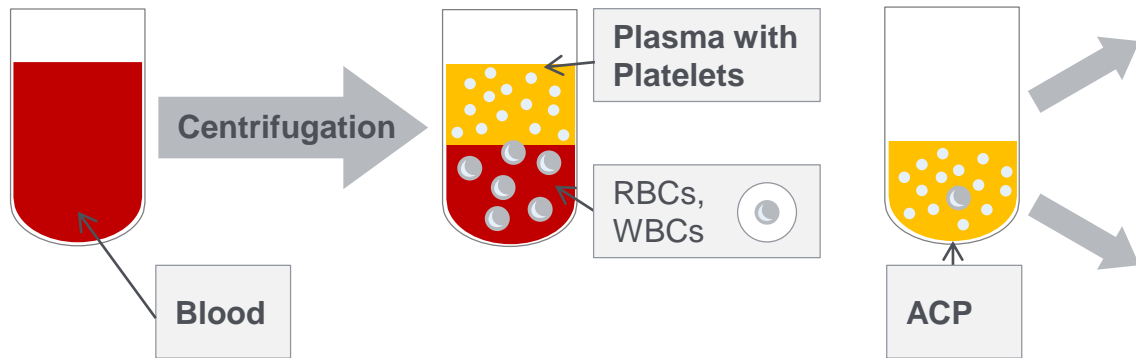
Preparation method
Needle gauge for blood harvest and injection
<b>Platelet concentration</b>
Platelet granule secretion (e.g., GFs)
<b>Leukocyte (and subtype) concentration</b>
Platelet storage (vs. Immediate injection)
Anticoagulant use
Platelet preactivation
Local anesthetic use
Palpation vs. Image guidance
Injection volume
Injection frequency
Preinjection and postinjection protocol (e.g., NSAID/activity restriction)
Type and severity of disease being treated
Patient-specific factors (e.g., age, sex, platelet disorders)

**System  
specific**

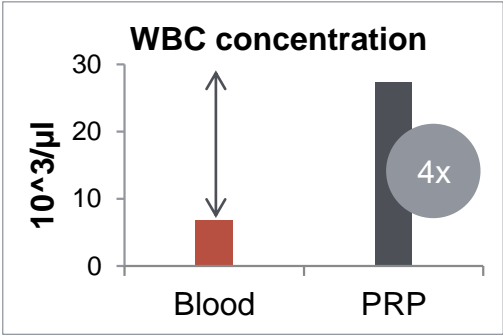
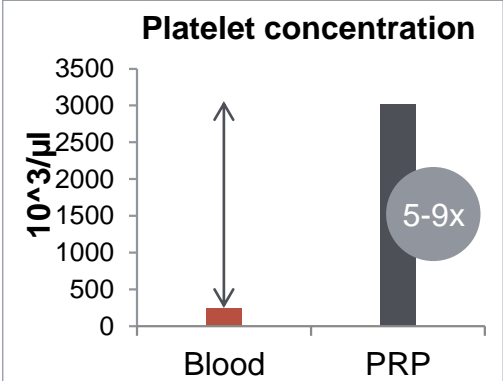
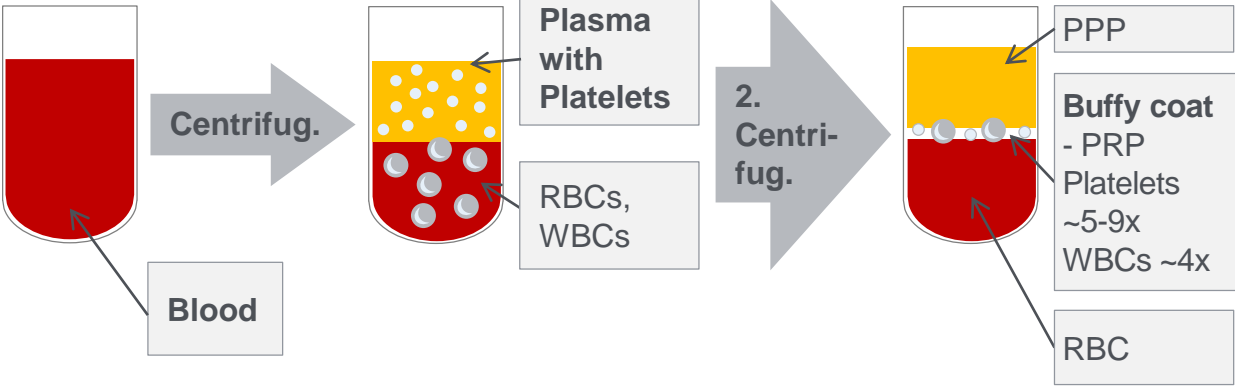
**Plasma-based**

**Buffy Coat-  
based**

# Plasma-based PRP

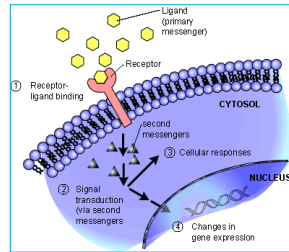


# Buffy-coat PRP

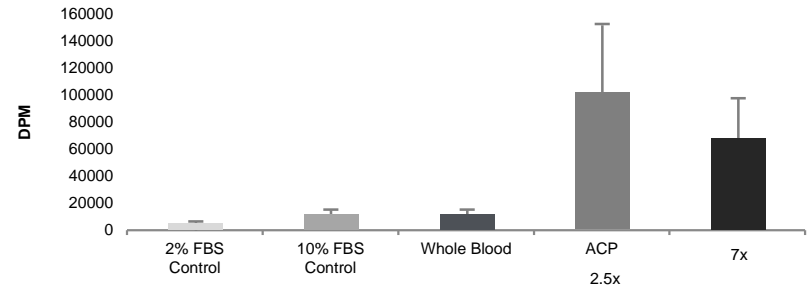


# 1. Platelet concentration

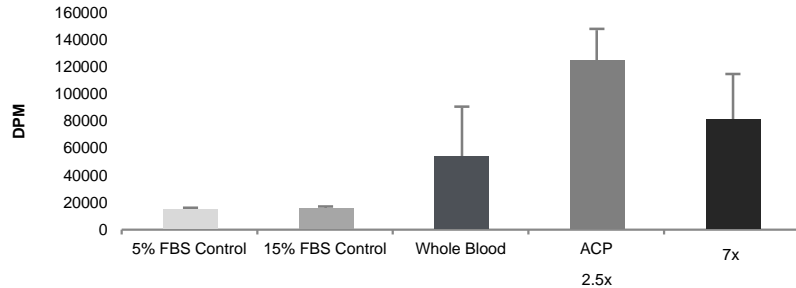
## 2. Leukocyte concentration



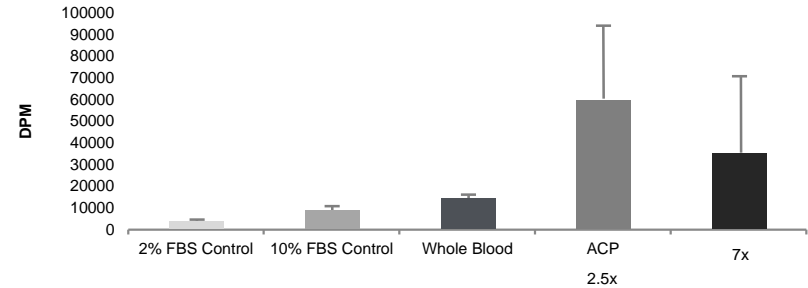
Tenocyte Proliferation



Osteoblast Proliferation



Myocyte Proliferation

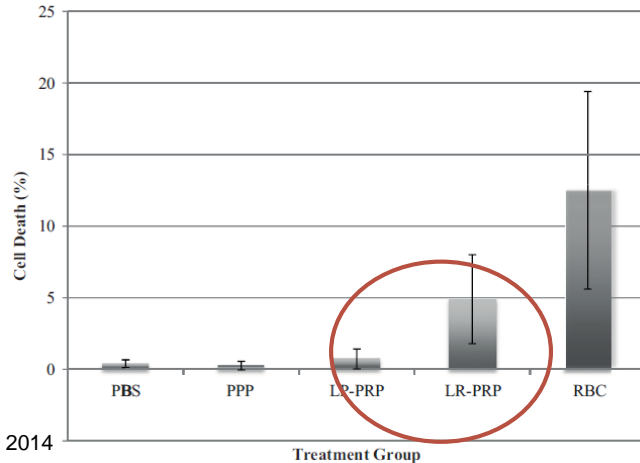


Mazzocca et al., ESSKA 2010

# 1. Platelet concentration

## 2. Leukocyte concentration

„The Effect of Platelet-Rich Plasma Formulations and Blood Products on Human Synoviocytes”



Braun et al., 2014

- Treatment of synovial cells with **leukocyte-rich PRP and red blood cells resulted in significant cell death** and proinflammatory mediator production
- “Clinicians should consider using leukocyte-poor, red blood cells-free formulations of PRP when administering intraarticularly”



# 1. Platelet concentration

## 2. Leukocyte concentration

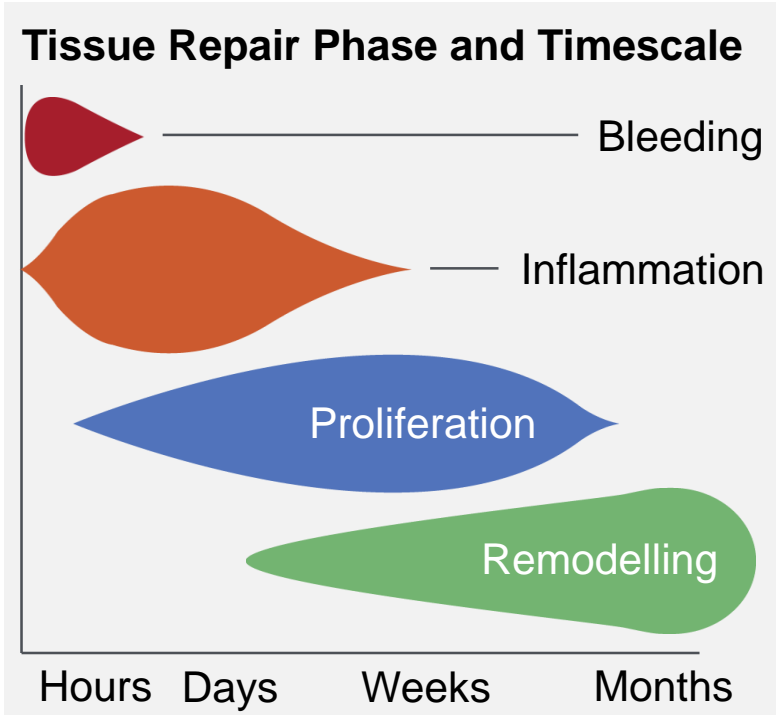
- Leukocytes increase signal molecules for catabolic processes
- When activated, neutrophils release non-specific, toxic agents <sup>1,2,3</sup>
- The toxic agents will destroy everything in contact, injured or healthy
- Neutrophils can delay its regenerative capabilities and healing capacity<sup>4</sup>
- Neutrophils cause destruction of muscle through cytotoxic effect<sup>5</sup>

➤ **Concentrated WBCs at the site of injury may be detrimental toward the healing progression**

1. Diegelmann RF et al. Wound healing: an overview of acute, fibrotic and delayed healing. [Front Biosci](#) 2004; 9: 283-9.  
2. Martin P et al. Inflammatory cells during wound repair: the good, the bad and the ugly. [Trends Cell Biol](#) 2005; 15(11): 599-607.  
3. Scott A et al. What do we mean by the term "inflammation"? A contemporary basic science update for sports medicine. [Br J Sports Med](#) 2004; 38(3): 372-80.

4. Toumi H et al. The inflammatory response: friend or enemy for muscle injury? [Br J Sports Med](#) 2003; 37(4): 284-6.  
5. Schneider BS et al. Neutrophil infiltration in exercise-injured skeletal muscle: how do we resolve the controversy? [Sports Med](#) 2007; 37(10): 837-56.

# PRP Growth Factors – Mode of Action



Platelets active in all phases of tissue healing

---

Too high amounts of leukocytes might promote an undirected tissue destruction

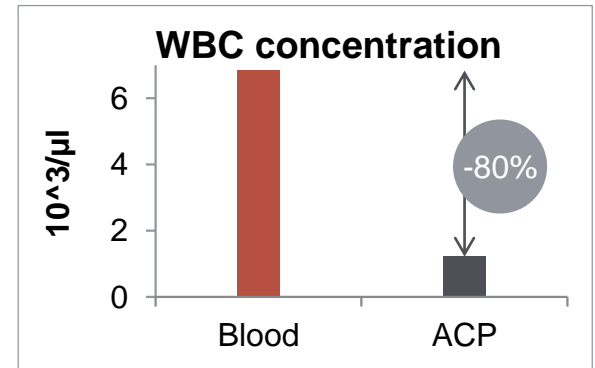
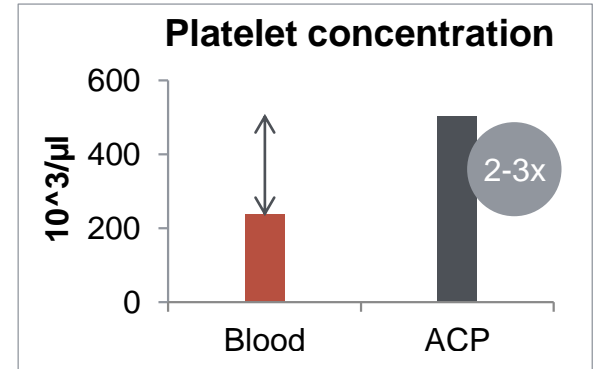
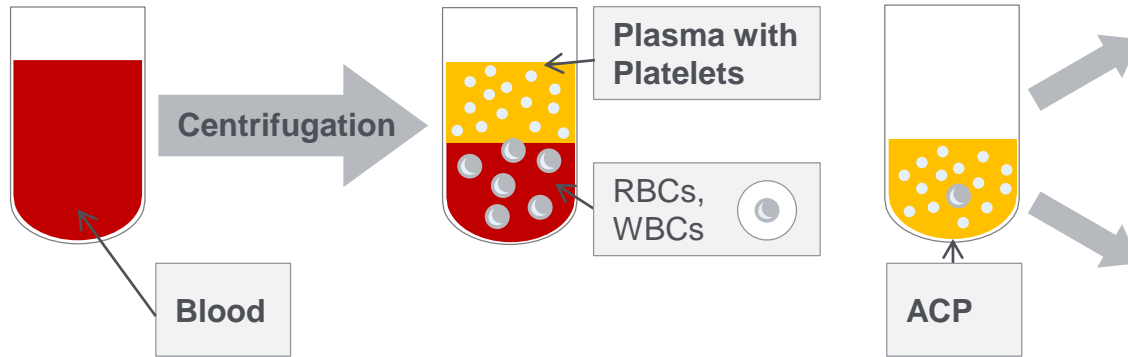
---

Recent research suggests that the switch from proinflammatory to prohealing activities is key for efficient repair

---

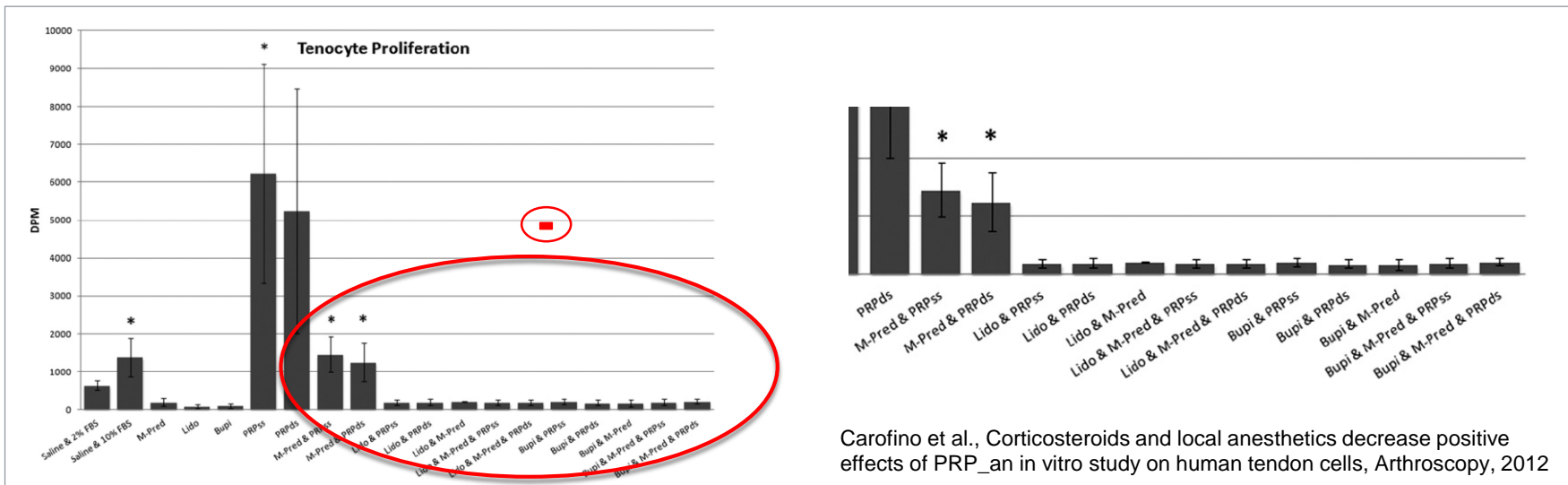
Isabel Andia et al. 2012; Molecular and Biological Aspects of Platelet-Rich Plasma Therapies

# ACP – The Healing Composition



# Treatment considerations

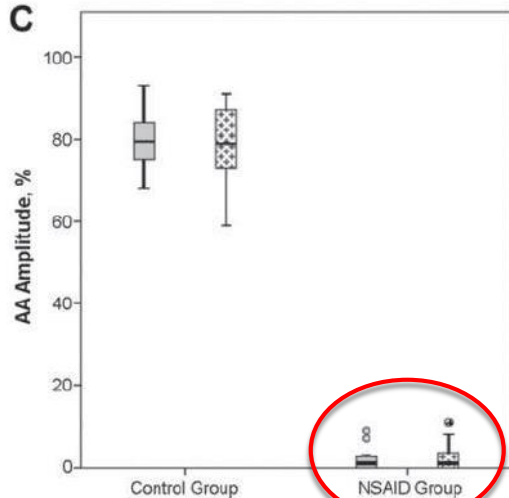
# How to use ACP – Local Anesthetics, Corticosteroids



Carofino et al., Corticosteroids and local anesthetics decrease positive effects of PRP\_an in vitro study on human tendon cells, Arthroscopy, 2012

- Reduction of cell proliferation
- **Recommendation: Injection of ACP without local anesthetics or corticosteroids (alternatively, cooling or subcutaneous application)**

# How to use ACP - NSAIDs



## Platelet aggregation

Study group: NSAID (diclofenac or dexibuprofen) taken twice daily (3 days)

Control group: no NSAID history within the previous 2 weeks

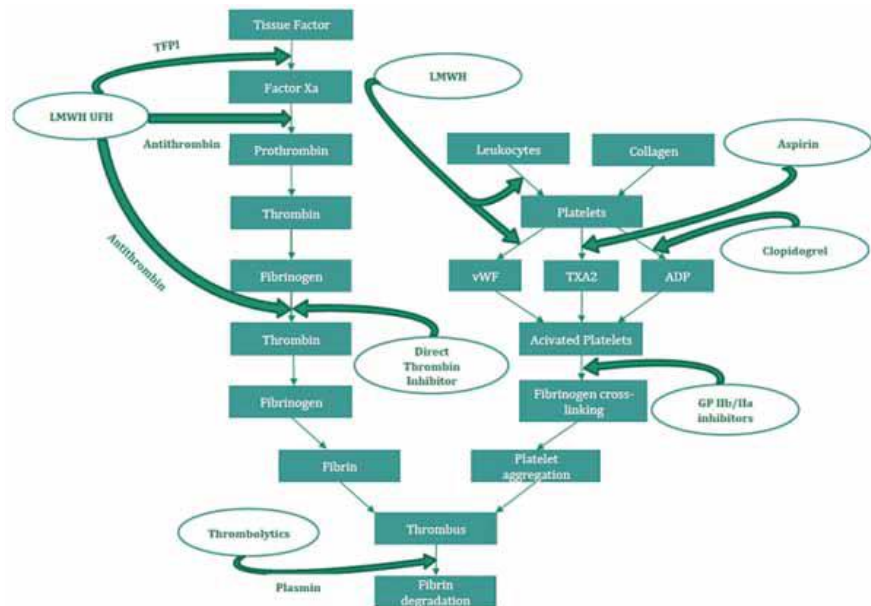
Platelet activation performed with standard inductors of platelet aggregation (e.g. Arachidonic acid)

Schippinger et al., Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma Preparations-Influence of NSAIDs on Platelet Function, The Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine, 2015

→ Significantly impaired platelet function in PRP from subjects after NSAID medication

→ **Recommendation: If required, the administration of NSAIDs should be performed after blood collection for the preparation of autologous PRP;**

# How to use ACP – Antithrombotic Therapy



Drug	Half-life	Before PRP	After PRP
Warfarin	20-60 h	4-5 days	2h
Heparin	1.5h	2-4h	1h
Low molecular weight Heparin: Therapeutic dosing		>24h	24h
Low molecular weight Heparin: Prophylactic dosing		10-12h	6-8h
Fondaparinux (factor Xa inhibitor)	17-21h	36-42h	6-8h
Rivaroxaban (factor Xa inhibitor)	5-9h	22-26h	4-6h
Apixaban (factor Xa inhibitor)	9-14h	26-30h	4-6h
Dabigatran (thrombin inhibitor)	12-17h	7days	5days
Clopdogrel	7-8h	7days	
Aspirin (irreversibly inhibits platelet cyclooxygenase)		7days	

Ramsook et al., Timing of Platelet Rich Plasma Injections During Antithrombotic Therapy, Pain Physician 2016

# Multiple Injections

Better outcome?

---



Marketing story?

---





# Multiple Injections – ACP for Patellar Tendinopathy

Zayni, MLTJ, 2015

Clinical scores	At baseline			At 34 monthmean FU		
	VAS (SD)	Tegner score (SD)	VISA-P (SD)	VAS (SD)	Tegner score (SD)	VISA-P (SD)
Group a: 1 PRP injection	7.1 (1.6)	4.1 (1.3)	36.7 (10.6)	3.6 (1.2)	5.9 (5.9)	65.7 (19.8)
Group b: 2 PRP injections	6.7 (1.7)	4.8 (0.94)	35.7 (9.4)	1.07 (1.5)	8.1 (1.7)	93.2 (14)
p value	ns	ns	ns	0.0005	0.0003	< 0.0001

## Results

PRP injection improved clinical outcomes in almost 77% of patients and allowed them to return to their pre-symptom activity level in 86% of cases.

**Two consecutive ultrasound-guided intratendinous PRP injections showed a better improvement in their outcomes when compared to a single injection**

- Randomized prospect. consec. series, level II
- 40 athletes
- Single vs. Two injections (2 weeks apart)
- VISA-P, VAS, Tegner

# Multiple Injections – LP-PRP for Knee OA

**Görmeli et al., KSSTA, 2015**

**Multiple PRP injections are more effective than single injections and hyaluronic acid in knees with early osteoarthritis**

## **Results:**

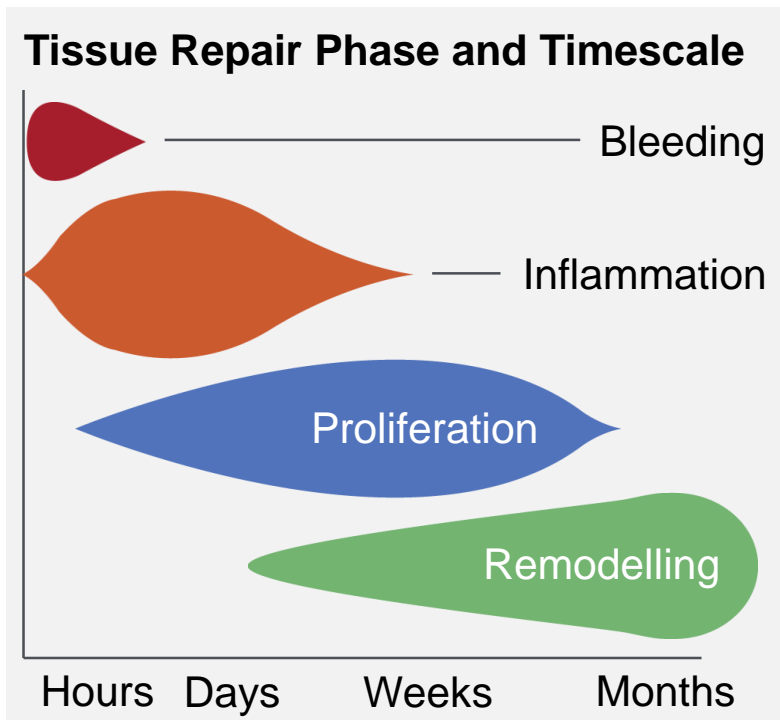
Multiple PRP injections are more effective than single injections and hyaluronic acid in knees with early osteoarthritis

- 
- RCT, level I
  - 162 patients, grade I-IV
  - Single vs. 3 injections (weekly interval) vs. HA (3, weekly interval) vs. saline (3, weekly interval)



Increased Effect with Multiple Injections
Recommendation:
OA, tendinopathies: 3-5 injections with ACP at weekly intervals
Muscle: up to 5 injections with ACP every 2-3 days

# Multiple Injections - Weekly interval



Recent research suggests that the switch from proinflammatory to prohealing activities is key for efficient repair

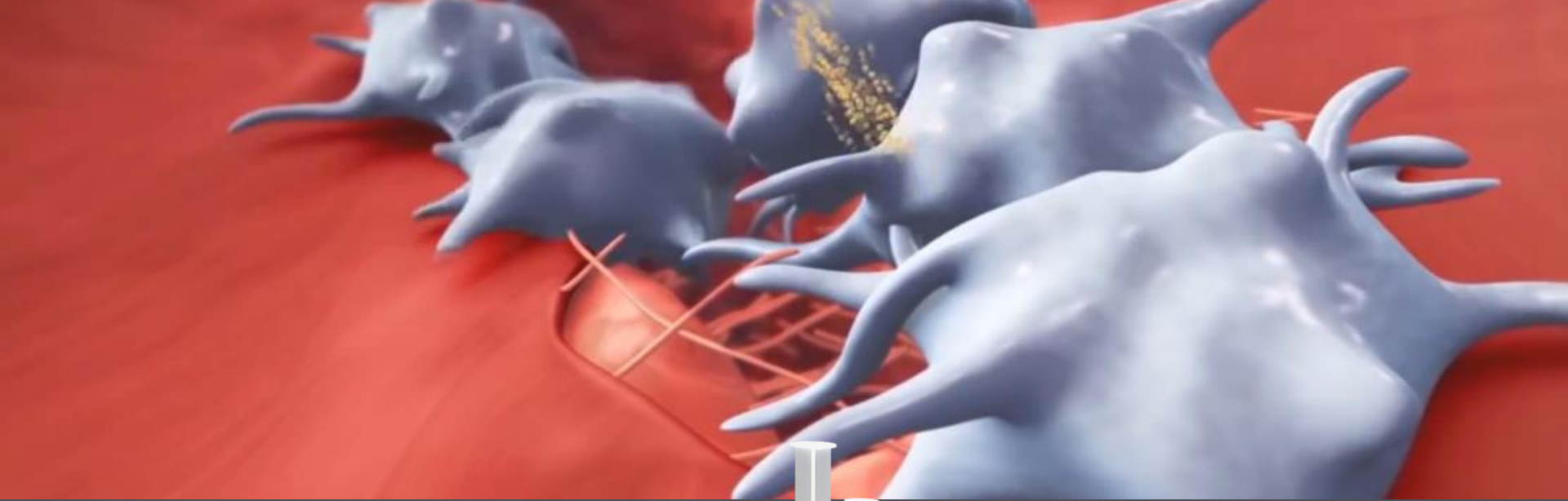
---

Platelets have a lifespan of ~ 1 week

---

Growth factors have a lifespan of max. 24h

---



## Scientific Evidence Tendinopathy



# Tendon Pathology

Overload

Microtears

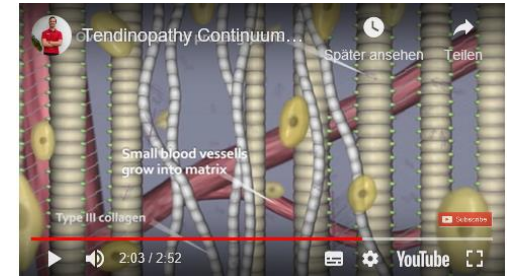
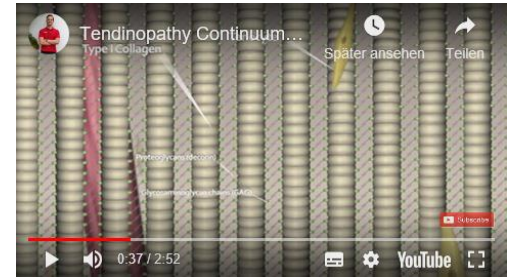
Discontinuous / disorganised collagen fibers

Degenerative changes (lipid deposition, proteoglycan accumulation, calcification)

Decreased collagen content (increased collagen type III/I ratio)

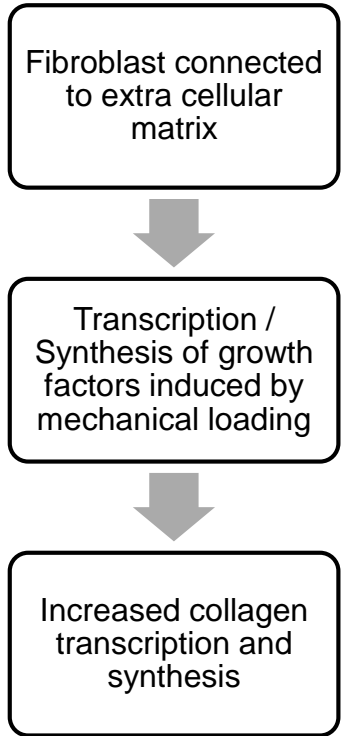
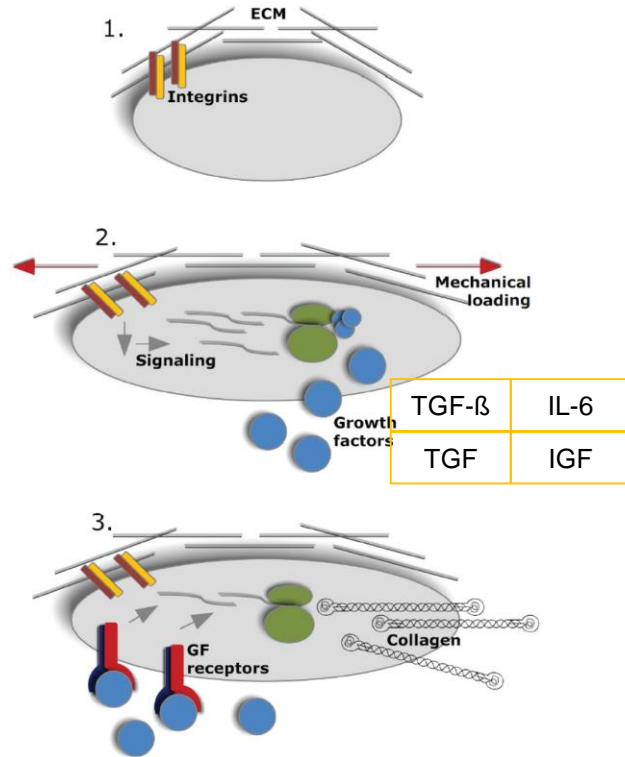
Increased MMP expression

Progress of tendinopathy



# Role of Growth Factors in Tendon Healing

- Promote tenocyte / stem cell proliferation
- Induce stem cell differentiation
- Increase collagen synthesis (platelets increase collagen Type I, Leukocytes increase collagen Type III → Leukocytes may negatively anabolic effects of PRP and increase scar formation)
- Reduce pro-inflammatory mediators



Heinemeier KM, Kjaer M et al, 2011 / Zhou et al, 2016

# PRP for tendinopathy - Review

Downloaded from <http://bmjopensem.bmj.com/> on February 16, 2018 - Published by group.bmj.com

Open Access

Original article

BMJ Open  
Sport &  
Exercise  
Medicine

## Efficacy of platelet-rich plasma injections for symptomatic tendinopathy: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised injection-controlled trials

Larry E Miller,<sup>1</sup> William R Parrish,<sup>2</sup> Breana Roides,<sup>2</sup> Samir Bhattacharyya<sup>2</sup>

To cite: Miller LE, Parrish WR, Roides B, et al. Efficacy of platelet-rich plasma injections for symptomatic tendinopathy: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised injection-controlled trials. *BMJ Open Sport Exerc Med* 2017;3:e000237. doi:10.1136/bmjsem-2017-000237

Received 08 February 2017

### ABSTRACT

**Aim** To determine the efficacy of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injections for symptomatic tendinopathy.

**Design** Systematic review of randomised, injection-controlled trials with meta-analysis.

**Data sources** Systematic searches of MEDLINE and EMBASE, supplemented by manual searches.

**Eligibility criteria for selecting studies** Randomised controlled trials with 3 months minimum follow-up that evaluated pain reduction with PRP versus control (saline, local anaesthetic, corticosteroid) injections in patients with symptomatic tendinopathy.

### What is already known?

▶ Chronic tendinopathy presents a therapeutic challenge to clinicians and there is no consensus on preferred treatment regimens.

▶ While platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injections have shown generally positive results in tendinopathy, study designs and PRP preparation methods vary widely which complicates interpretation of efficacy.

- Lateral epicondylar, Achilles, Patellar, Rotator cuff
- 16 randomized controlled trials
- Control groups: LA, Saline, Corticosteroid

## Results

**PRP is more efficacious than control injections** in patients with symptomatic tendinopathy

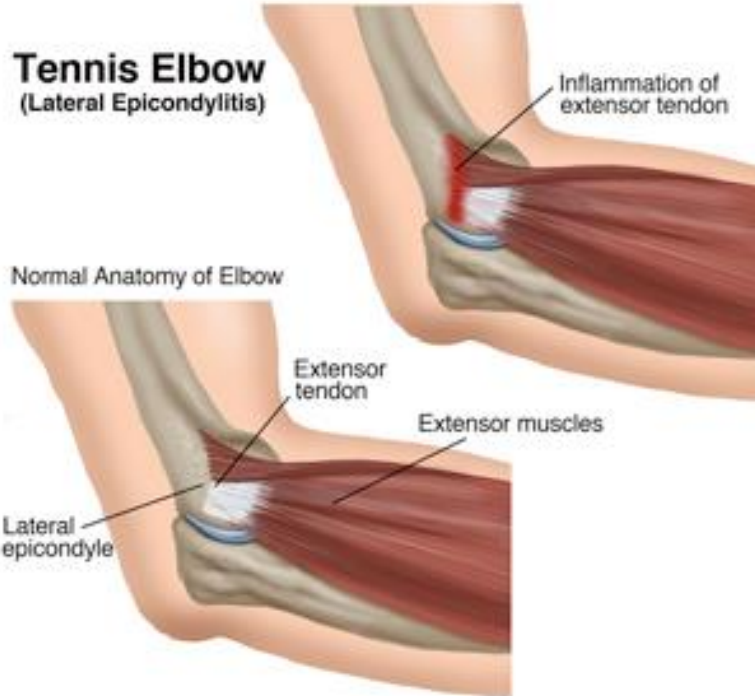
PRP injections may be more efficacious in woman than men

# 01

## Epicondylitis



# Epicondylitis



**7 positive RCT studies**

---

4 vs. steroids; 2 vs. LA; 1 vs. blood

---

**1 ACP vs. Steroid RCT study**

**3 Review concluding**

---

PRP superior to steroids

---

# Review – Murray

## „Platelet-Rich-Plasma Injections in Treating Lateral Epicondylitis: a Review of the Recent Evidence” (Murray, JHM, 2015)

Author	Year	No	PRP Injection vs	Comments
Misha A K	2013	225	Active control	Significant pain improvement at 24 weeks compared with control group
Gosens	2011	100	Cortico-steroid (CCS) Injection	Significant improvement VAS and DASH at 2 years
Krogh	2013	60	Glucocorticoid & Saline	No significant improvement in pain at 3 months compared to saline or CCS.
Thanass	2011	28	Autologous whole blood Injection	Significant pain improvement at 6 weeks. No significant difference in function
Creaney	2011	150	Autologous blood injection	No significant difference at 6 months. Higher conversion rate to surgery in ABI group
Peerbooms	2010	100	Cortico-steroid (CCS) Injection	Significant decrease in pain and increase in function compared to CCS

- Most studies carried out with leukocyte-rich PRP

## Results

**PRP superior to AWB injections**

**PRP superior to placebo/dry needling procedures**

**Benefit of PRP versus steroid injections at level II evidence**

**“Steroid injections are reported to give short-term pain relief, however the proven recurrence rates and complications should limit their use”**

# Epicondylitis – ACP

## ACP vs. steroid betamethasone (Lebiedzinski, SICOT, 2015)

	ACP group; n=53		Betamethasone group; n=46	
	Range	Mean	Range	Mean
Before treatment	22.5–94.2	53.2±15.5	27.8–88.7	58.6±14.8
At 6 weeks	2.5–66.7	32.2±18.2	0–68.2	20.6±21.5
At 6 months	0–42.5	14.2±13.4	0–68.8	14.7±22.0
After 1 year	0–66.7	9.9±17.1	73.0	14.4±25.2

## Results

After 6 weeks and six months mean DASH significantly better in steroid group

**After 1 year ACP was significantly better**

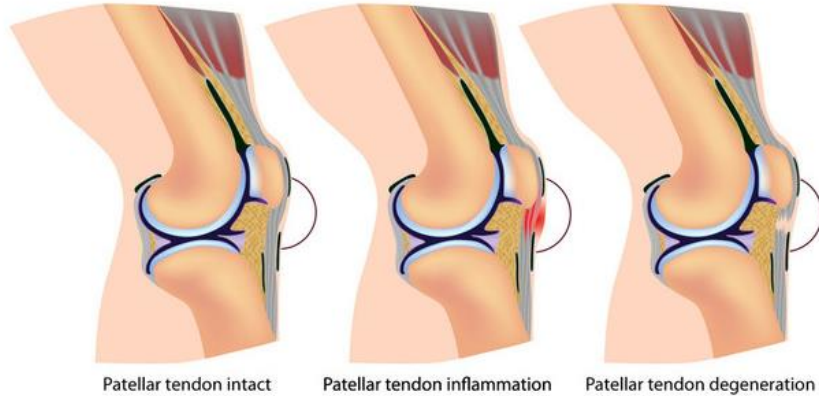
ACP therapy of LE allows better results to be obtained at 12 months, **effect is longer lasting**

- Randomized study
- 99 patients
- Single injection
- DASH

# 02 Patellar Tendinopathy

# Patellar Tendinopathy

Knee injury - Jumper's knee



**2 positive RCT studies**

---

1 vs. ESWT; 1 vs. Dry needling

---

**2 ACP**

---

Case series (level IV)

---

Randomized prospective series (level II)

---

**Review concluding**

---

PRP injection is an effective treatment for patellar tendinopathy

---

# Review – Andriolo

## „Nonsurgical Treatments of Patellar Tendinopathy: Multiple Injections of Platelet-Rich Plasma Are a Suitable Option” (Andriolo, AJSM 2018)

### Nonsurgical Treatments of Patellar Tendinopathy: Multiple Injections of Platelet-Rich Plasma Are a Suitable Option

#### A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Luca Andriolo,\* MD, Sante Alessandro Altamura,\* MD, Davide Reale,+1 MD, Christian Candrian,‡ MD, Stefano Zaffagnini,\* MD, Prof., and Giuseppe Filardo,§ MD, PhD  
*Investigation performed at Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute, Bologna, Italy; and Ospedale Regionale di Lugano—EOC, Lugano, Switzerland*

**Background:** Patellar tendinopathy is a condition characterized by anterior knee activity-related pain. It has a high incidence among athletes engaged in jumping sports and may become a chronic condition. Nonoperative management is the first choice in these patients, and several nonsurgical treatment options have been proposed. Nonetheless, clear indications on the most effective approach to address patellar tendinopathy are still lacking.

**Purpose:** To analyze the evidence on nonoperative options to treat chronic patellar tendinopathy through a systematic review of the literature and to perform a meta-analysis to identify the most effective nonsurgical option.

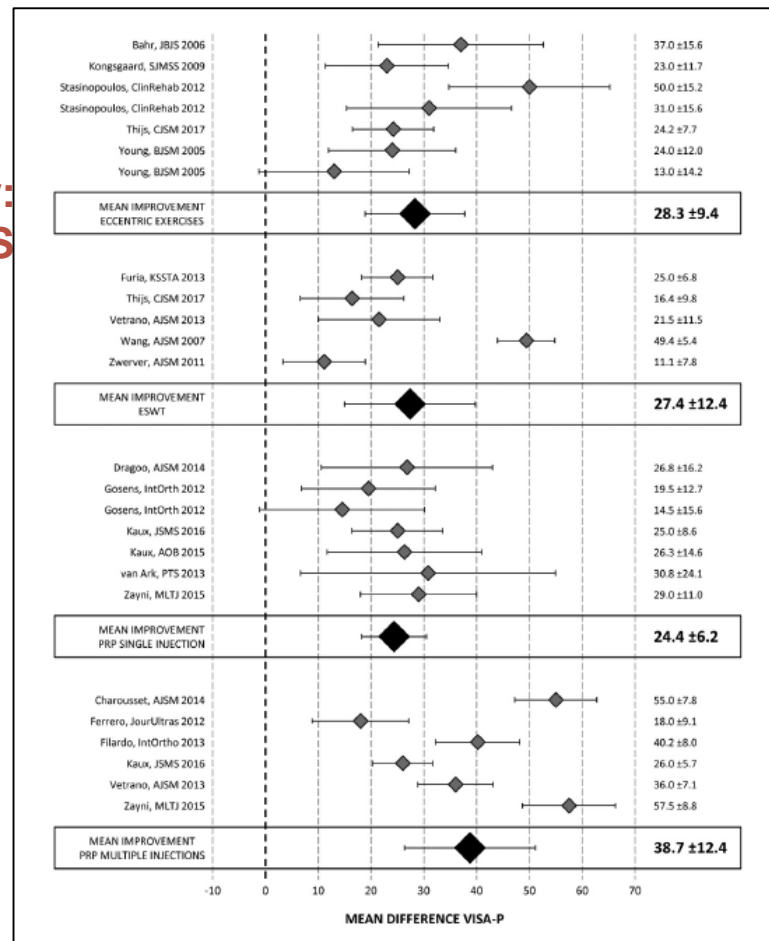
- 70 studies, 2530 patients
- Treatment groups: eccentric exercise, extracorporeal shockwave therapy, Platelet Rich Plasma (single, multiple)

# Review – Andriolo

## „Nonsurgical Treatments of Patellar Tendinopathy: Rich Plasma Are a Suitable Option” (Andriolo, AJS)

### Results

- **Multiple injections of PRP obtained the best results at long-term follow-up (>6 months)**
- **It seems advisable to combine PRP treatment with rehabilitation and specifically eccentric protocols**
- the results of the available literature suggest that **multiple PRP injections may be considered a suitable option for complex cases** with patients with more serious symptoms or when conservative rehabilitative approaches fail to treat chronic patellar tendinopathy



# Patellar tendinopathy – ACP

Zayni, MLTJ, 2015

Clinical scores	At baseline			At 34 monthmean FU		
	VAS (SD)	Tegner score (SD)	VISA-P (SD)	VAS (SD)	Tegner score (SD)	VISA-P (SD)
Group a: 1 PRP injection	7.1 (1.6)	4.1 (1.3)	36.7 (10.6)	3.6 (1.2)	5.9 (5.9)	65.7 (19.8)
Group b: 2 PRP injections	6.7 (1.7)	4.8 (0.94)	35.7 (9.4)	1.07 (1.5)	8.1 (1.7)	93.2 (14)
p value	ns	ns	ns	0.0005	0.0003	< 0.0001

- Randomized prospect. consec. series, level II
- 40 athletes
- Single vs. Two injections (2 weeks apart)
- VISA-P, VAS, Tegner

## Results

PRP injection **improved clinical outcomes in almost 77% of patients** and allowed them to return to their pre-symptom activity level in 86% of cases.

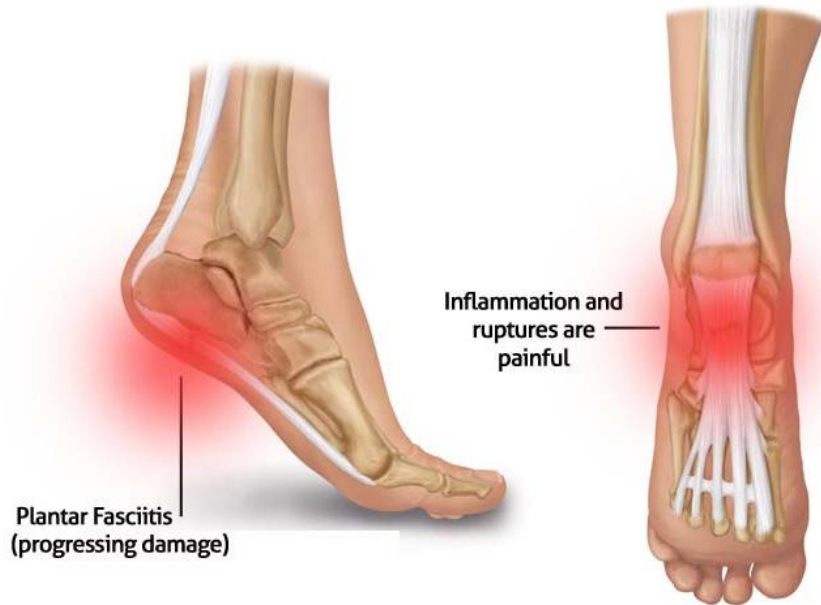
Two consecutive ultrasound-guided intratendinous PRP injections showed a better improvement in their outcomes when compared to a single injection



# 03

## Plantar Fasciitis

# Plantar Fasciitis



**4 positive RCT studies**

---

4 vs. steroids

**2 ACP**

---

Prospective series (level IV)

Randomized trial (level II)

---

**2 reviews concluding**

---

PRP superior to steroids

---

# Review – Chiew

## „ Effectiveness and relevant factors of platelet-rich plasma treatment in managing plantar fasciitis: A systematic review” (J Res Med Sci, 2016)

Author/year	Study design and quality	Number of patients	Intervention	Control	Results
Ragheb and Othman 2009 <sup>10</sup>	Prospective cohort (good)	25	5 ml PRP injection	None	Injection of PRP is safe, reduce post injection pain and doesn't affect the biomechanical function of the foot
Martinielli et al. 2013 <sup>16</sup>	Prospective cohort (good)	14	PRP injection (online not mentioned)	None	PRP is safe and has significantly reduced pain and improved function
Kumar et al. 2013 <sup>18</sup>	Prospective cohort (good)	44 (50 heels)	2.5-3.5 ml PRP injection	None	PRP produce an efficacy rate, approaching 2 out of every 3. The procedure was safe
O' Malley et al. 2013 <sup>19</sup>	Retrospective cohort (good)	23	2-3 ml PRP injection	None	Pain, symptoms and quality of life improved significantly with PRP injection; with safety assured
Kim and Lee 2013 <sup>21</sup>	RCT (good)	21 (10 in PRP group, 11 in Steroid group)	2 ml PRP injection	2cc Dexamethasone/ lidocaine injection	Both group showed improvement even though PRP showed better initial improvement, there is no statistical significance between these groups
Aksahin et al. 2012 <sup>22</sup>	RCT (good)	40 (20 in each group)	3 ml PRP injection	Steroid injection (40 mg methylprednisolone)	Both group showed significantly lowered pain score but no significant difference between these groups. PRP was safer than steroid with same effectiveness
Morito 2010 <sup>11</sup>	RCT (good)	40 (Cortisone: 20+ PRP: 20)	3 ml PRP injection	Cortisone injection	Significant difference between 2 groups. PRP was more effective and durable than cortisone
Jain et al. 2015 <sup>24</sup>	Prospective cohort (good)	40 Patients (80 heels)	2.5 ml PRP injection	Tramadol 40 mg and Characate injection (in volume is mentioned)	At 2 months, all scores had significantly improved in both groups. At 6 months, there was no statistically significant difference between the two groups. At 12 months, PRP is significantly more effective than Steroid
Sherry et al. 2013 <sup>11</sup>	RCT (good)	50 Patients (25 in each group)	3 ml PRP injection	2 ml Intracortical acetic acid (40 mg/ml)	At 15 months post-injection, there was more improvement in the PRP than in the steroid group. There was no significant difference between both groups at 3 months
Shetty et al. 2014 <sup>14</sup>	Prospective cohort (good)	40 Patients (20 in each group)	8 ml PRP injection	40 mg of tramadol/acetaminophen and 3 ml of 2% lignocaine	There was significant clinical improvement in PRP group at three months after the injection
Wilson et al. 2014 <sup>14</sup>	Prospective cohort (case series)	22 Patients (24 heels)	5 ml PRP injection	None	Treatment with PRP injection resulted in clinically and statistically significant improvements in self-reported pain and function, compared with pre-injection baseline measurements
Say et al. 2014 <sup>11</sup>	Prospective cohort (good)	50 Patients (25 in each group)	2.5 ml PRP injection	40 mg/1 ml of methylprednisolone and 1 ml of prilocaine	The PRP group had significantly higher mean VAS and VAS scores at follow-up than the steroid group (P<0.001)

## Results

### Improvement during the first 3 months

Significant improvement was also noted when the patient was followed up till 12 months postinjection

Regardless of PRP variations, **superiority of PRP treatment compared to steroid was reported in all studies**

PRP therapy might provide an effective alternative ... with **no obvious side effects or complication**

- 4 RCTs, 8 cohort studies, 455 patients
- PRP vs. corticosteroids
- Various PRPs and injection protocols

# Plantar fasciitis– ACP

## Martinelli, SICOT, 2013

Journal of Orthopaedics (2013) 2013, 17, 101-102  
doi:10.1016/j.jo.2013.07.002

ORIGINAL PAPER

### Platelet-rich plasma injections for chronic plantar fasciitis

Stefano Maffulli<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Maffulli<sup>a</sup>, Stefano Carai<sup>a</sup>,  
Elio Frenkel<sup>a</sup>, Alberto Maffulli<sup>a</sup>, Veronica Iannace

Received 16 October 2012; accepted 27 November 2012; published online 17 December 2012  
© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2012

#### Abstract

**Objective** The purpose of this study was to assess the safety and effectiveness of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injections for chronic plantar fasciitis. **Methods** Prospective treatment of patients with chronic plantar fasciitis involving three injections of PRP into the plantar fascia were performed (2 weeks after the procedure). The modified Rolés and Maudsley score and a visual analogue scale (VAS) were administered before and after the procedure. **Results** According to criteria of the Rolés and Maudsley score, all 12 patients (100%) were considered to be cured or almost cured (92.5% good or very good, 7.5% acceptable or less than 50% good or very good). **Conclusion** PRP injections into the plantar fascia were safe and had the potential to reduce pain.

#### Introduction

Chronic plantar fasciitis is a common problem that affects approximately 10% of the adult population. It is characterized by pain in the heel, the condition is self-limiting, and the majority of cases spontaneously resolve regardless of type of intervention considered (including surgery) [1]. The main

knowledge of the pathology has led to the widespread application of a large number of conservative treatments: the main ones are plantar fasciitis [2], including physiotherapy, platelet-rich plasma [3], orthotics, night splints, professional and custom-made inserts, laser irradiation, acupuncture and ultrasound [4] and PRP [5]. The most recent evidence [6] suggests that PRP is more effective than placebo in the treatment of chronic plantar fasciitis [7, 8]. However, various other studies are pending to confirm and clarify the efficacy of PRP in the treatment of chronic plantar fasciitis [9].

Recently, promising results were reported in all the cases of chronic plantar fasciitis treated with PRP injections for chronic plantar fasciitis, and the use of PRP in the treatment of chronic plantar fasciitis with a high content of platelets and with, in hypercholesterolemia, which could promote cellular differentiation, angiogenesis, and proliferation [10]. Despite the lack of strong evidence, a positive response was observed in the majority of cases in these retrospective studies. PRP represents a biological source of many growth factors, including fibroblast growth factor, platelet-derived growth factor, insulin-like growth factor, and transforming growth factor- $\beta$  [11]. The purpose of this study was to assess the safety of PRP injections for treating chronic plantar fasciitis and provide a clinical assessment of its effectiveness.

#### Material and methods

Patients were 12 patients (10 men, 2 women, mean age 48.2 (range 37–59) years) affected by chronic plantar fasciitis and 2009 were enrolled in this study. Nine patients were

## Results

**4 of 5 athletic patients returned to same sport activity within 3 months after last injection**

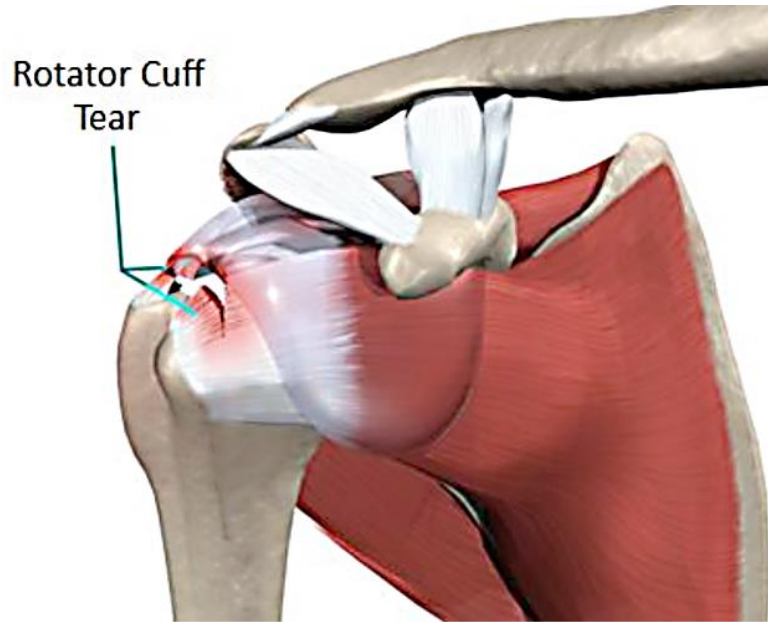
**79% rated results as excellent and good**

**VAS decreased significantly from 7.1 to 1.9 at the last follow-up**

- single-centre, uncontrolled, prospective study
- 14 patients
- 3 injections, weekly interval
- Rolés & Maudsley Score, VAS; 12 months

# 04 Misc.

# Rotator cuff tears



## Von Wehren et al. KSSTA 2015

---

Therapeutic study Level III

---

50 patients, partial rotator cuff tear

---

3 ACP injections (weekly) vs. 1 cortisone

---

VAS and shoulder scores (ASES, SST and CMS) statistically significant better after 3 months in ACP group, trend after 6 months

---

## Werthel et al. 2014, Hak et al. 2014

---

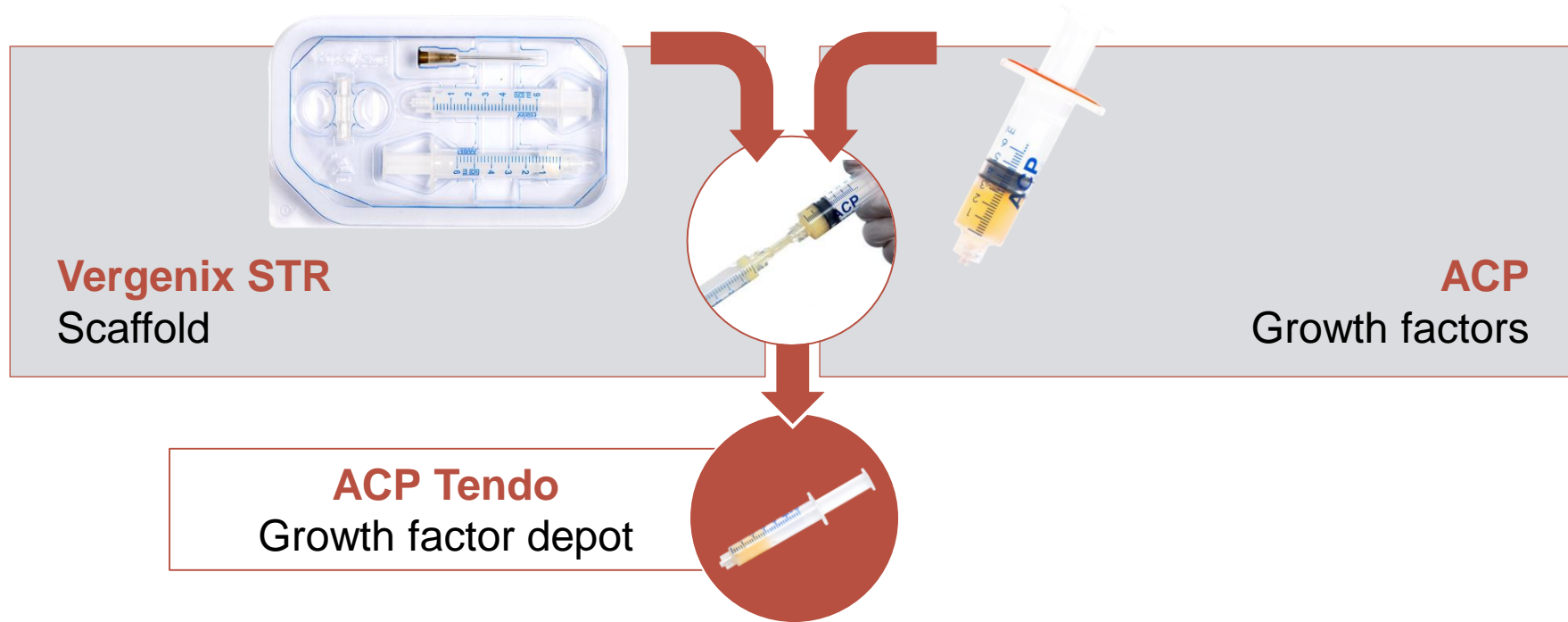
ACP resulted in lower pain but no improvement regarding functional/structural outcome

---



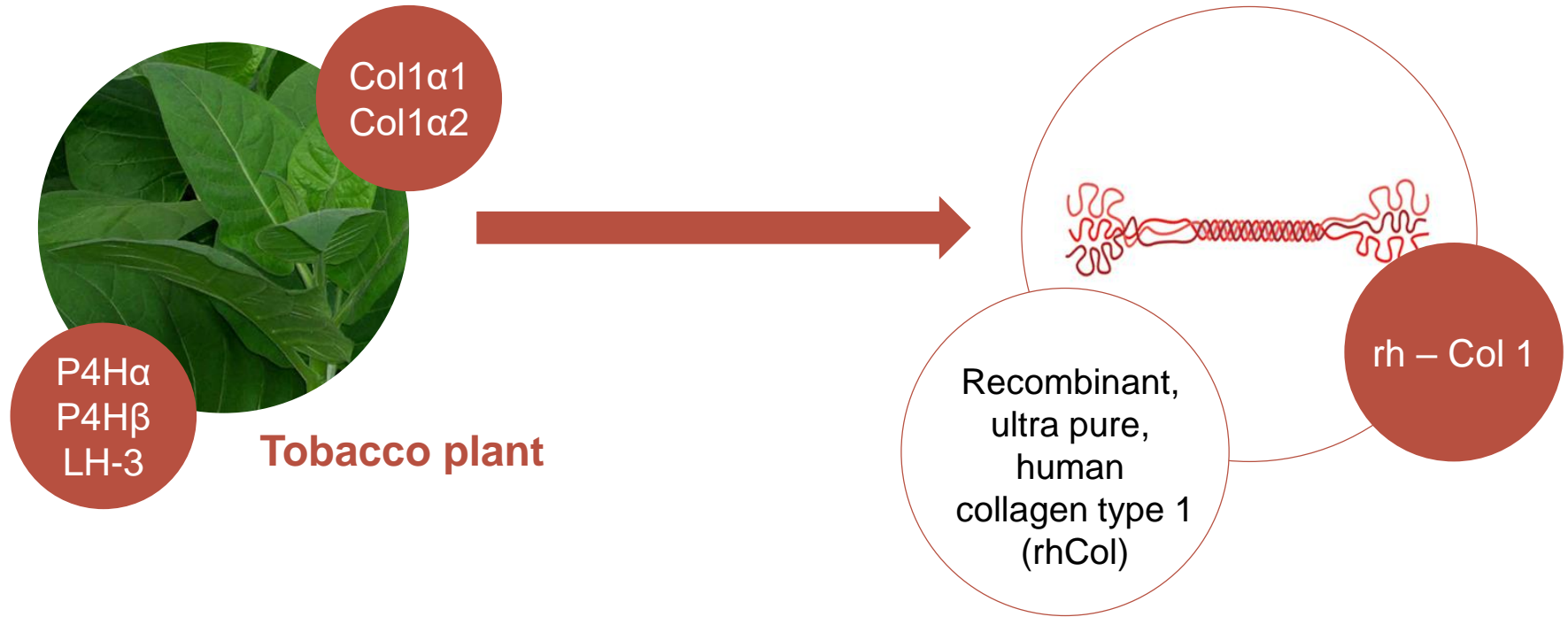
## ACP Tendo – Next Generation ACP for Tendinopathies

# ACP Tendo – Growth factor depot for the treatment of tendinopathies



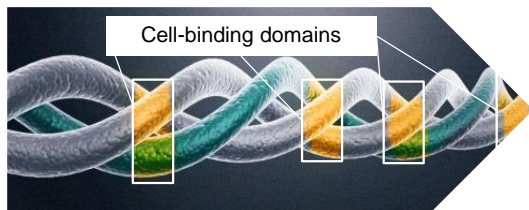


# Vergenix STR – New Generation Collagen Scaffold



# Vergenix STR – New Generation Collagen Scaffold

## Plant-Derived



### rhCollagen

- Intact triple helix
- High cell-binding domains



**Fully functional 3-D matrix**  
**Thin fibers / high surface area**



**Fast cell proliferation**  
**and fast tissue repair**

# ACP Tendo – Mode of Action

## Interaction of ACP and Vergenix STR

- Adhesion and Activation of platelets
- Clot formation

## Local growth factor release

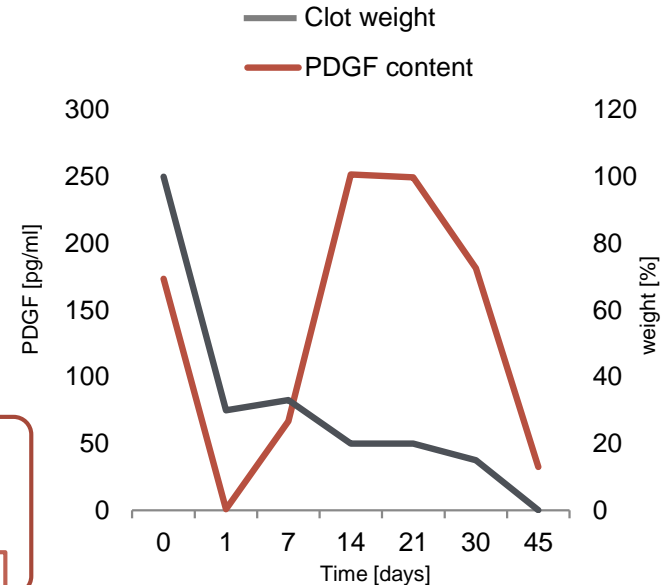
- Elevated levels of growth factors for a prolonged time
- Chemotaxis

## Scaffold

- Cell adhesion (fibroblasts, endothelial cells)
- Bildung extrazellulärer matrix

## Biodegradation of Vergenix STR

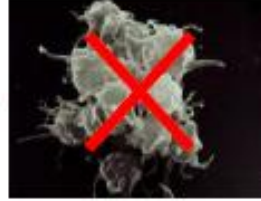
- Maturation of fibrotic tissue
- Arrest of the inflammation process



Subcutaneous injection (mouse model)

# Combination with local anesthetics – why is it possible?

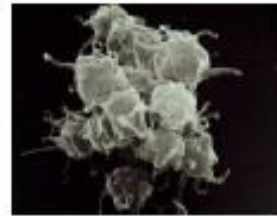
Local anesthetics inhibit platelet aggregation → growth factors cannot be released



→ Pure ACP should NOT be combined with local anesthetics

---

When using **ACP Tendo** platelets get activated during mixing process with the collagen → growth factors are released and embedded in the clot



→ No negative effect of LA on platelet aggregation and growth factor release

# ACP Tendo preparation



# Indications

## All Types of Tendinopathies / Tendon repairs

Epicondylitis

---

Patellar tendon

---

Achilles tendon

---

Supraspinatus tendon (rotator cuff)

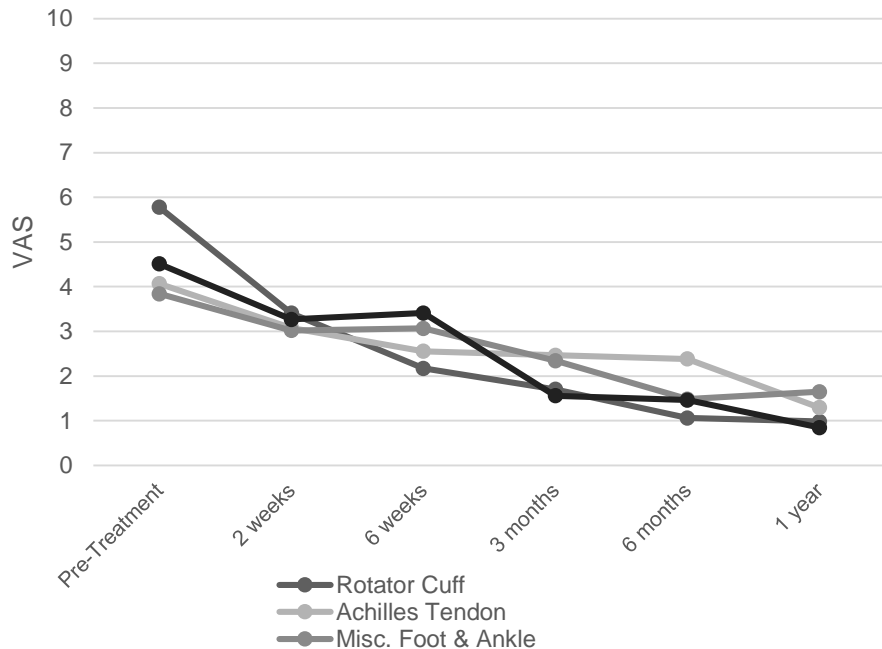
---

Plantar fasciitis

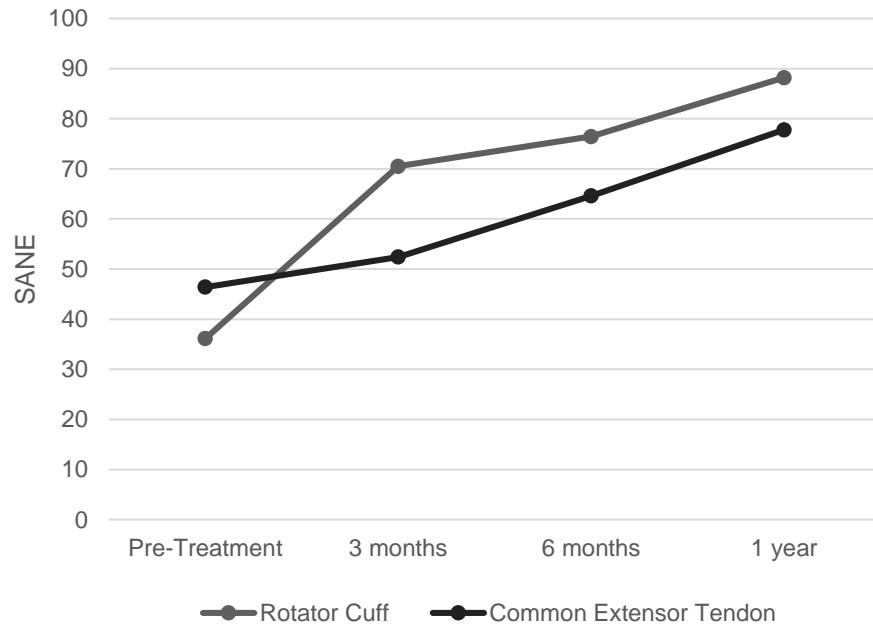
---

# First results

## Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)



## Single Assessment Numerical Evaluation (SANE)



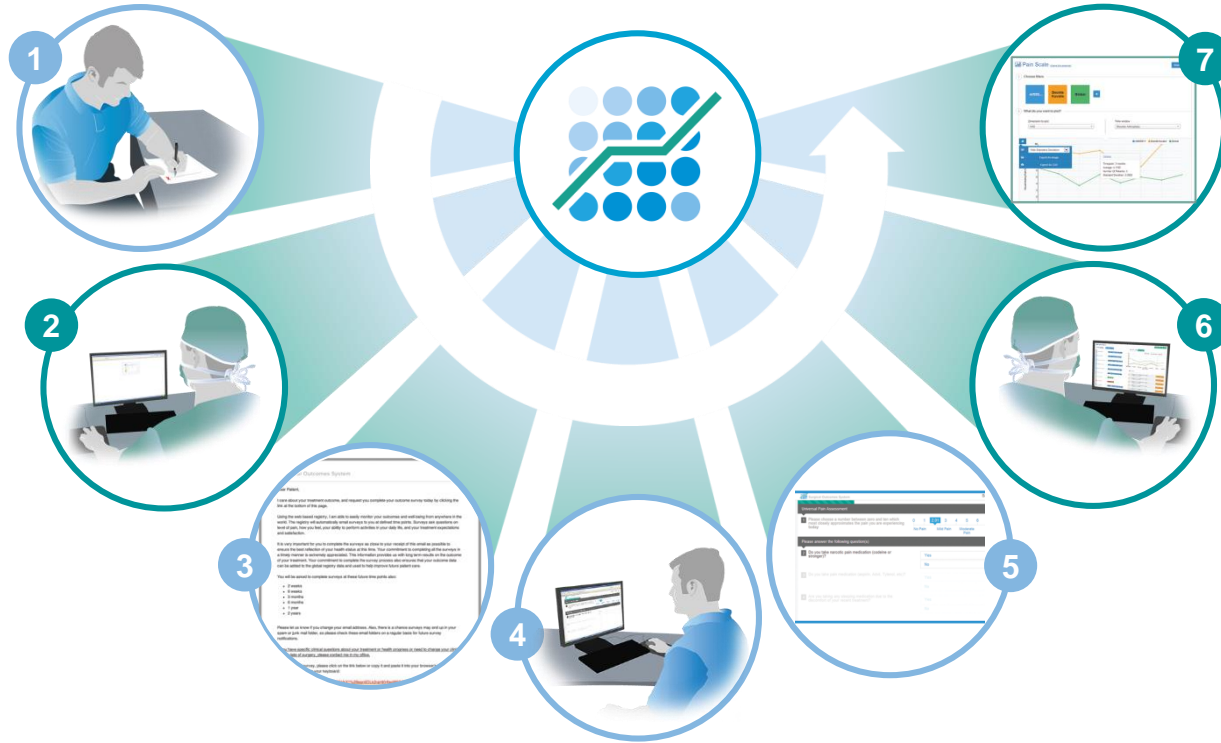


# **S**urgical **O**utcomes **S**ystem

The First Global Registry in Orthopaedics



# Process



# SOS – Numbers



**~1000 Users**



**47 validated  
Scores**



**>100 000  
Patients**



**23 Countries**

# Benefits

**Konservative Therapie und Rehabilitation**

**Fig. 4** Comparison of the Effect of Rehabilitation with Conservative Treatment with Conservative Treatment before and 12 weeks after treatment with ACZY12.

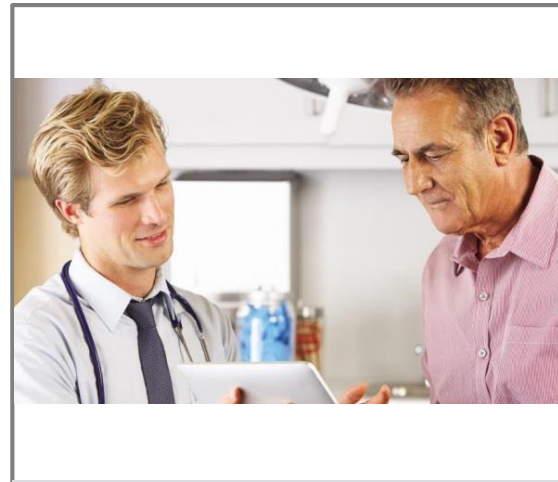
**Fig. 5** Comparison of the Effect of Rehabilitation with Conservative Treatment with Conservative Treatment before and 12 months after treatment with ACZY12.

**Dr. G. M. M. van't Hof-Grootenboer**  
 Orthopedic surgeon working in the field of spine medicine with a focus on minimally-invasive spine surgery and orthopedic oncology.  
 Professor in the field of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

**Dr. G. M. M. van't Hof-Grootenboer**  
 Orthopedic surgeon working in the field of spine medicine with a focus on minimally-invasive spine surgery and orthopedic oncology.  
 Professor in the field of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Publications, presentations or marketing

Convince colleagues, payers and insurance companies of new treatment options



Patient education & engagement

# SOS Homepage

[www.surgicaloutcomesystem.com](http://www.surgicaloutcomesystem.com)



Surgical Outcomes System™

Surgeon ▾

Patient

Clinical Outcomes

Brochure ▾

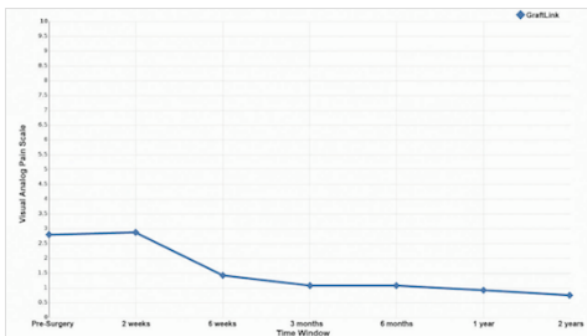
FAQs ▾

Contact

## What's New in SOS™ Clinical Outcomes



PDF



## All-Inside ACL Reconstruction with GraftLink®

**Study**  
Knee Arthroscopy

**Purpose**  
To report the clinical outcome of pain, function and quality of life for patients who have undergone All-Inside ACL reconstruction utilizing GraftLink technique for graft preparation.

[Download the Report](#)

# Arthrex ACP<sup>®</sup> Tendo – Take Aways



- Innovative treatment option
- Especially for structural tendon defects (tears, degenerative tissue)
- Injection directly into the defect (don't overfill)
- Ultrasound guidance mandatory



**Thank you!**