## **Leukemia Inhibitory Factor**

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## The effect of Leukemia Inhibitory factor on self-renewal and differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells in vitro

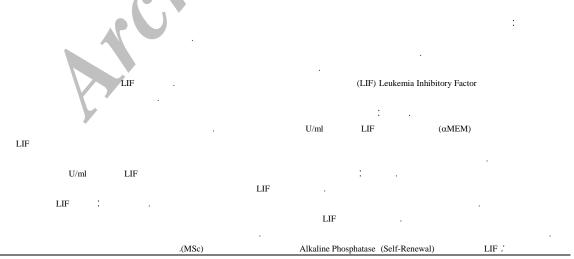
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Objectives: Multipotent mesenchymal stem cells (MSc) have been known for a long period of time. These cells are adherent, clonogenic and fibroblastic and can be isolated from bone marrow stroma of postnatal organisms. Under appropriate conditions, these cells can give rise to broad spectrum of fully differentiated connective fissues including cartilage, bone, adipose tissues and muscle cells. Upon the isolation of cells in vitro, these cells tend to differentiate and it is very difficult to direct these cells into self-renewal in order to get more Multipotent MSc for medical purposes. In this study, the effect of leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) on MSc has been investigated. In the presence of LIF, embryonic stem cells proliferate without differentiation. However the effect of LIF on MSc has not been fully investigated. Methods: Bone marrow stroma cells were extracted from 2-month-old and 8-month-old mice. These cells were cultured in a medium containing LIF. After formation of colonies, cells were stained by methylen blue. The activity of alkaline Phosphatase was also investigated. To study the effect of LIF on self-renewal ability of MSc, cells were cultured in a primary culture containing LIF. Colonies formed in the primary cultures, were harvested and recultured. The number and size of colonies compared with these cultured without LIF. Results: In the presence of LIF, cells tend to express alkaline phosphatase enzyme more than control cells. However, in the presence of LIF in primary culture, there was no difference in the number of colonies. The size and number of colonies in secondary culture were significantly increased among those cells grown in the presence of LIF in primary culture. The number and quality of colonies did not show any significant difference among those cells extracted from 2-month-old and 8-month-old mice. Conclusion: The presence of LIF in primary culture does not affect the number of colonies formed. However, most of the cells in the primary culture express alkaline phosphatase. These cells tend to differentiate into bones. The presence of LIF in primary culture increases the self renewal ability of cells. Also these cells have more proliferation ability in comparison with control cells. The numbers of mesenchymal stem cells with aging do not decrease. Therefore, mesenchymal stem cells do not age and their number stays constant during the lifetime.

Key words: LIF, MSc, Alkaline Phosphatase, Self-renewal, differentiation.



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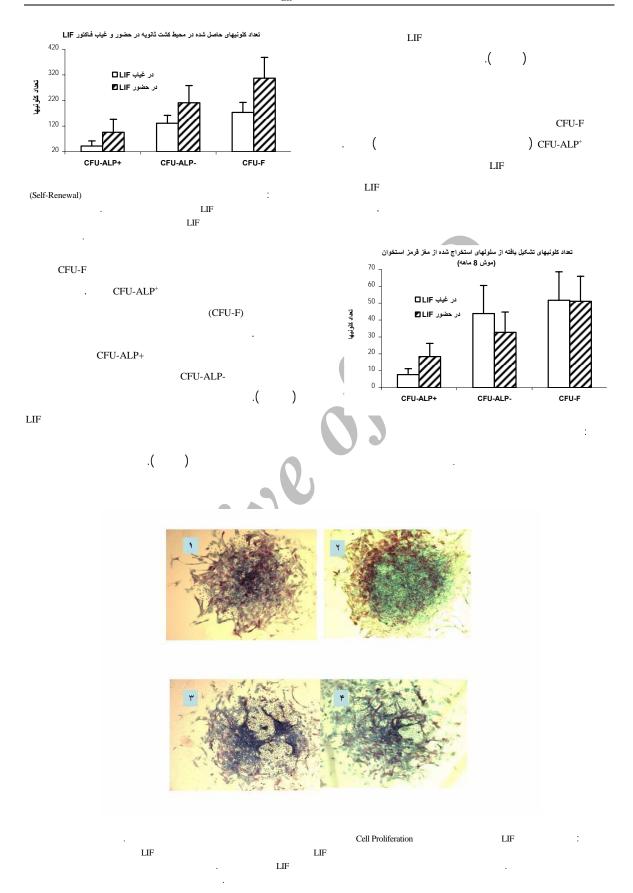
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LIF

(Self-Renewal)

LIF

MAP Kinase

LIF

LIF LIF

Proliferation

LIF

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LIF

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