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Introduction

Chronic wounds contain elevated levels of neutrophil elastase which is responsible for the degradation of growth factors such as platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) [1]. In order to support the normal wound healing process the protection of growth factors is essential. Previous studies have shown that a wound dressing composed of bovine collagen type I is able to bind significant amounts of PDGF-BB, protect it from proteolytic degradation and maintain its biological activity [2]. The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of collagen of different origin (bovine*, porcine** and equine***, respectively, Fig. 1) on PDGF-BB concentration as well as biological activity *in vitro*.

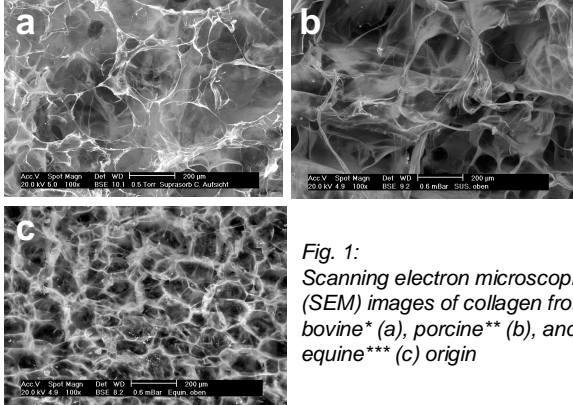


Fig. 1: Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) images of collagen from bovine* (a), porcine** (b), and equine*** (c) origin

Material and methods

Wound dressings consisting of bovine*, porcine**, and equine*** collagen have been used. Samples were cut into equal pieces and incubated in PDGF-BB solution. Supernatants were collected and the samples washed to recover bound PDGF-BB. PDGF-BB concentration was determined by specific ELISA (R&D Systems). Supernatants and washing solutions were incubated with human dermal fibroblasts. Cell proliferation was assayed by determination of dsDNA amount (PicoGreen, Molecular Probes) and ATP content (ATPlite, Perkin Elmer).

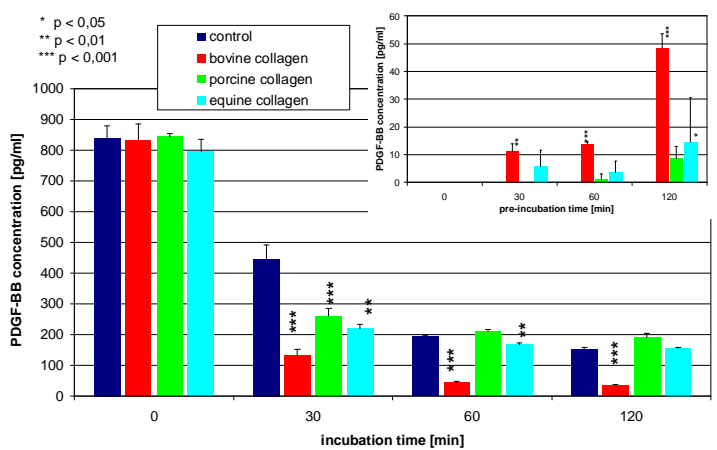


Fig. 2: Reduction of the PDGF-BB concentration in the supernatant by collagen of bovine*, porcine** and equine*** origin (mean ± SE). Insert: Elution of PDGF-BB from bovine*, porcine** and equine*** collagen after incubation (mean ± SE).

* Bovine collagen: Suprasorb® C, Lohmann & Rauscher
 ** Porcine collagen: Nobakoll®, Noba Verbandmittel Danz
 *** Equine collagen: Kollagen-resorb, Resorba® Clinicare

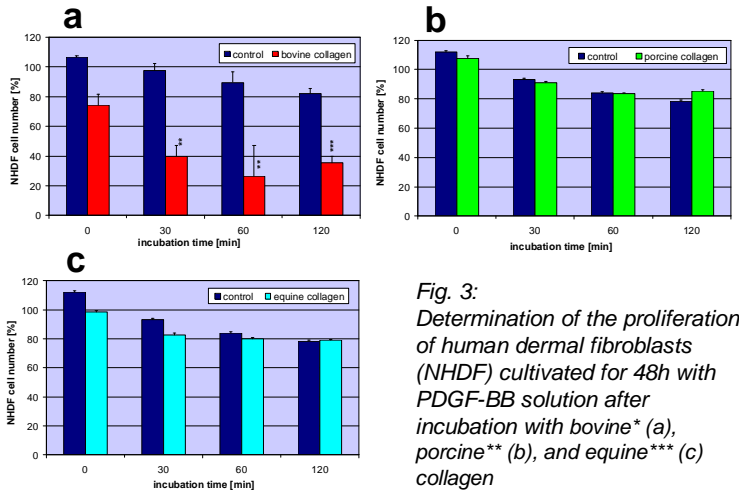


Fig. 3: Determination of the proliferation of human dermal fibroblasts (NHDF) cultivated for 48h with PDGF-BB solution after incubation with bovine* (a), porcine** (b), and equine*** (c) collagen

Results

As Fig. 2 shows, the bovine* collagen wound dressing binds considerable amounts of PDGF-BB. As a result of the binding, the effective concentration of the growth factor was reduced. As a consequence, the proliferation of fibroblasts treated with the pre-incubated PDGF-BB solution decelerates in a time- and dose-dependent manner as demonstrated in Fig. 3a. The binding capacity of porcine** and equine*** collagen for PDGF-BB was much lower (Fig. 2). Bound PDGF-BB can be regained from bovine* collagen by elution (Fig. 2, insert). The release of PDGF-BB from porcine** and equine*** collagen was much less distinct due to the lower binding capacity. The PDGF-BB elution from bovine* collagen correlated with increased fibroblast proliferation as shown in Fig. 4, almost reaching the proliferation level of medium control + PDGF-BB.

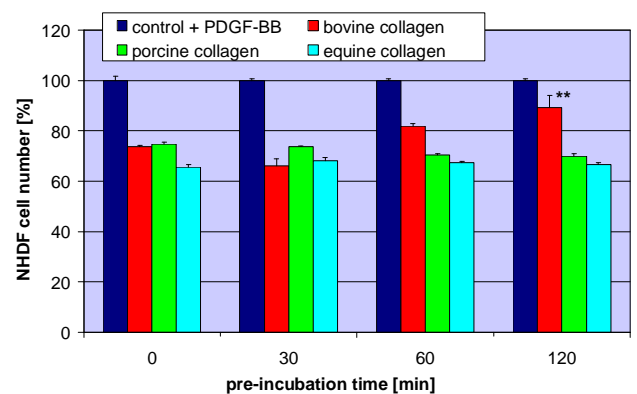


Fig. 4: Determination of the proliferation of human dermal fibroblasts (NHDF) cultivated for 48h with PDGF-BB eluted from collagen of bovine*, porcine**, and equine*** origin after pre-incubation with the growth factor

Conclusions

Collagen is able to bind PDGF-BB at different rates depending on its origin. In particular, bovine* collagen has a considerable binding capacity for the growth factor. During the binding, PDGF-BB is not only protected from proteolytic degradation but preserves its biological activity as well. Porcine** and equine*** collagen showed less binding affinity for PDGF-BB.

References

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