

Dexamethasone Transforming Growth Factor-Beta 1

. #
,

Phenotypical Stability and Matrix Synthesis of Human Intervertebral Disc Cells in Response to Dexamethasone and Transforming Growth Factor- 1

Na-Sil Pyo, M.D.[#], Un-Hye Kwon, B.Sc., Seong-Hwan Moon, M.D., Hyang Kim, M.Sc., Kwang-il Lee, B.Sc., Ji-Ae Jun, B.Sc., Ki-Tack Kim, M.D.[#], Hak-Sun Kim, M.D., Hwan-Mo Lee, M.D.

*Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Kyung Hee University Hospital[#],
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea*

– Abstract –

Study Design: An in vitro experiment.

Objectives: To evaluate the mRNA expressions of matrix components, and analyze the cellular proliferation and proteoglycan synthesis of human intervertebral disc cells in response to dexamethasone and TGF- 1

Summary of Literature Review: Corticosteroids are responsible for the regulation of a diverse range of biological processes through modulation of the expression of target genes. The direct injection of methylprednisolone to the intervertebral disc (IVD) has been shown to cause degeneration and calcification of the disc in rabbits. Systemic administration of hydrocortisone induced degeneration of notochordal cells, which accelerated the aging process of the disc in mice. Transforming growth factor beta-1 (TGF- 1) is known as a potent agent for the proliferation, differentiation and matrix synthesis of IVD.

Materials and Methods: IVD cells were isolated from ten patients, and subsequently cultured. Various doses of dexamethasone (DEX) and/or TGF- 1 were administered to the IVD cultures. DNA and proteoglycan syntheses were measured by the incorporation of [3H]- thymidine and [35S]- sulfate, respectively. RT- PCRs were performed for the expressions of aggrecan, collagen types I and II, and osteocalcin mRNA.

Results: Cultures with DEX showed increased cellular proliferation and decreased proteoglycan synthesis (p<0.05). TGF- 1 potentiated the proliferative effect of DEX, but failed to stimulate proteoglycan synthesis in the cultures containing DEX. There were no recognizable changes in the mRNA expressions of aggrecan, collagen types I and II, and osteocalcin in response to DEX and TGF- 1.

Conclusions: DEX demonstrated a proliferative effect on human IVD cells, with the combination of DEX and TGF- 1 showing potentiation of the proliferative effect, while at high doses(100 and 1000nM, the DEX was shown to down- regulate the proteoglycan synthesis. Caution should be exercised in the use of corticosteroid in the therapeutic approaches for the treatment of disc disease or in the regenerative matrix of the IVD.

Key Words: Dexamethasone, Intervertebral disc (IVD), TGF- 1, Proteoglycan

Address reprint requests to

Hwan-Mo Lee, M.D.

Department of orthopaedic Surgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine

134 Shinchon-dong, Soedaemun-gu, Seoul 120-752, Korea

Tel: 82-2-361-5648, Fax: 82-2-363-1139, E-mail: hwanlee@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr

AP1, NF-KB, Oct1, Oct2, C/EBPb,
 Stat5
 (corticosteroid) 5). TGF- 1
 가 , 가 , Smad
 12,3,4) TGF- 1 26,27)
 (tenosynovitis) TGF- 1 fibronectin, , matrix metal-
 5,6) loproteinase 가가 glucocorticoid receptor가 TGF- 1
 7) 가 , 7,25,28,29) plasminogen activator inhibitor-1
 matrix metalloproteinase TGF- 1
 6, 8,9) 10) Smad 3, 4 25) gap junction
 TGF- 가 fascin 30)
 II
 11,12) 31,32,33,34)
 Safranin O , , (anulus
 13,14) fibrosus)
 , , , 15)
 hydrocortisone hydrocortisone
 (nucleus pulposus) 가 35)
 (notochordal cell) TGF- 1
 prednisolone acetate 16). Methyl- 가
 17) , , 가
 가 TGF- 1 가 TGF- 1 가
 18) Transforming Growth Factor-beta 1(TGF- 1)
 , , , 가
 19,20) 1.
 21,22) 가 10 (28 ~48)
 glucocor- . 20
 ticoid response element 23,24) Dulbecco 's Phosphate-buffered saline (D-PBS,

- Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY) ,
 5%
 (FBS, JRH BIOSCINCES, Lenexa, KS) 1% v/v penicillin/streptomycin (all antibiotics from Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY) Ham's F-12 medium (Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY) 0.2% pronase (Sigma, St. Louis, MO), 0.004% deoxyribonuclease type (DNase, Sigma, St. Louis, MO) 가 1 37 60 pronase 0.02% collagenase type II (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) 2 37 °C 2~3 Dulbeccos Modified Eagle Medium; Nutrient Mixture F-12 (Ham) (DMEM/F12, Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY) , Nylon (pore size 75 um) 25 cm²-EasyFlask™ (NUNC, Rockilde, Denmark) 10% FBS, 25 ug/ml ascorbic acid, 1% v/v penicillin/streptomycin (all antibiotics from Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY) DMEM/F12 3 5% CO₂ 37 °C 3
2.
 dexamethasone 0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM dexamethasone 3 dexamethasone 0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM dexamethasone 10 ng/ml TGF- 1
3.
 MTT stock (5 mg MTT(3-[4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide)/ml) 0.45 µm syringe filter filtration working 1:5(MTT stock :) . Dexamethasone TGF- 1 () 50 µl MTT working 가 . plate 37 °C 4 DMSO (Dimethyl sulfox-
- ide, sigma, D-5879) 200 µ 가 10 rotator spectrophotometer 570 nm Absorbance .
4. DNA ([³H]-Thymidine incorporation)
 DNA 가 [methyl-³H]thymidine (Amersham pharmacia, Uppsala, sweden) 5 µCi/ml 가 24 . 24 PBS , trypsin/EDTA , cell harvester Glass microfiber filter (Whatman, Maidstone, England) . D-PBS unbounded [methyl-³H]thymidine 16 membrane membrane scintillation vial Liquid scintillation cocktail (Beckman, Fullerton, CA) 3 ml 가 16 DNA가 -scintillation counter (Packard, Downers Grove, IL) DNA .
5. ([³⁵S]-sulfate incorporation)
 [³⁵S]-sulfate (Amersham pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) 20 µCi/ml 가 4 가 8M guanidine hydrochloride, 20 mM EDTA, proteinase inhibitors 가 4 °C 48 . Sephadex G-25M PD-10 column (Amersham Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) , Liquid scintillation cocktail (Beckman, Fullerton, CA) 6 ml 가 16 2, 3, 4 -scintillation counter (Packard, Downers Grove, IL)
6. (AggreCan, I , II mRNA) Total RNA RNeasy mini kit (QIAGEN, Maryland, USA) RNA 1ug Oligo d(T) 16 primer 2.5 uM (Invitrogen, Grand Island, NY) 가 70 °C 5 annealing RT-

premix (Bioneer, ,) 42 °C 1 cDNA
 , 95 °C 5 , 4 °C 5 primer 10 pmol/ul
 . cDNA 1 ul PCR
 가 가 20 ul가 PCR
 premix (Bioneer, ,) aggrecan, I
 , II , -actin PCR
 .(Table 1, 2) RT-PCR internal control
 -actin TINA pro-
 gram

TGF- 1 (10 ng/ml)

2. Dexamethasone

DNA

Dexamethasone(0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000nM)

DNA

(0.1, 1 nM)

dexamethasone

가 (p=0.09)

(10, 100, 1000 nM)

dexamethasone

7.

SPSS (SPSS, Chicago, IL)

t-test ANOVA

p<0.05

1.

dexamethasone

(0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM)

가 dexamethasone TGF- 1

(10 ng/ml)

(Fig. 1). dexamethasone

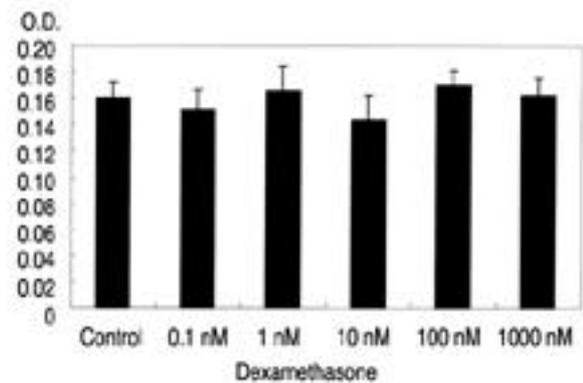


Fig. 1. Survival of intervertebral disc cells with various concentration of dexamethasone(0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000nM). There is no significant cytotoxicity of dexamethasone with dexamethasone compared to control.

Table 1. Sequences of the RT-PCR Primers Used

Primer	Sequence	Length	Size (bp)
-actin	5'-GGC GGA CTA TGA CTT AGT TG-3'	20	238
	5'-AAA CAA CAA TGT GCA ATC AA-3'	20	
Aggrecan	5'-GAA TCT AGC AGT GAG ACG TC-3'	20	541
	5'-CTG CAG CAG TTG ATT CTG AT-3'	20	
Collagen type	5'-CCT GTC TGC TTC CTG TTA AC-3'	20	182
	5'-AGA GAT GAA TGC AAA GGA AA-3'	20	
Collagen type	5'-CAG GAC CAA AGG GAC AGA AA-3'	20	328
	5'-TTG GTC CTT GCA TTA CTC CC-3'	20	

Table 2. PCR Conditions

Primer	Conditions Cycle			
	Denaturation	Annealing	Polymerization	cycles
-actin	94 °C 5 sec	53 °C 5 sec	72 °C 30 sec	24
Aggrecan	94 °C 5 sec	47 °C 5 sec	72 °C 30 sec	26
Collagen type	94 °C 5 sec	48 °C 5 sec	72 °C 30 sec	21
Collagen type	94 °C 5 sec	48 °C 5 sec	72 °C 30 sec	40

가 100 nM 90%, 1000 nM
 80% DNA 가
 (p<0.05)(Fig. 2). dexamethasone

3. Dexamethasone TGF- 1
 DNA

dexamethasone(0.1, 1, 10,
 100, 1000 nM) TGF- 1 (10 ng/ml)
 DNA dexamethasone
 가 1 nM
 DNA 105% 가 10 nM
 80%, 100 nM 180%, 1000 nM
 185% DNA 가가 (p<0.05) (Fig. 2).
 100, 1000 nM dexamethasone 10ng/ml TGF- 1
 180%, 185% DNA 가
 Dexamethasone 가 100, 1000 nM
 DNA ,
 dexamethasone TGF-
 1 가

4. Dexamethasone

Dexamethasone(0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM)

0.1, 1 nM
 dexamethasone
 가
 10 nM dexamethasone

100 nM 40%, 1000 nM
 가 (p<0.05)(Fig. 3).

5. Dexamethasone TGF- 1

dexamethasone(0.1, 1, 10,
 100, 1000 nM) TGF- 1 (10 ng/ml)
 TGF- 1 (10
 ng/ml)
 1nM dexamethasone
 30% 10, 100, 1000
 nM dexamethasone 15%,
 40%, 50% 가 (p<0.05)(Fig. 3).

6. Dexamethasone

Reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction

aggrecan , II
 mRNA dexamethasone

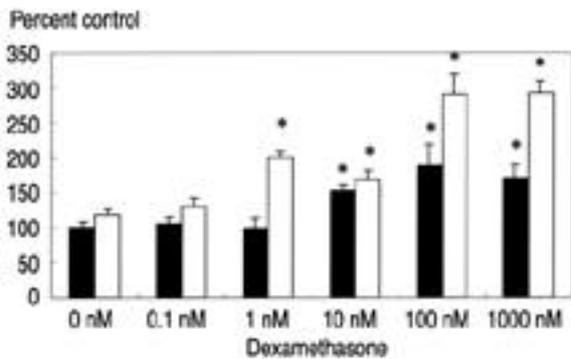


Fig. 2. [3H]-thymidine incorporation with various dose of dexamethasone and TGF- 1(10 ng/ml). White bar denotes culture with TGF- 1. Dexamethasone with a concentration of 10 nM, 100 nM, and 1000 nM renders increased DNA synthesis compared to control(p<0.05). Culture with dexamethasone and TGF- 1(10 ng/ml) showed increased DNA synthesis from the 1nM of dexamethasone and also demonstrated synergistic effect in DNA synthesis. * p<0.05

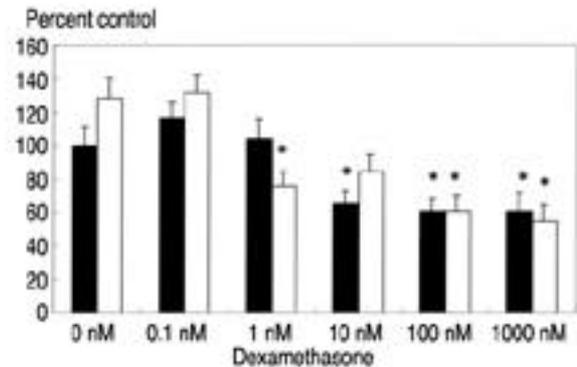


Fig. 3. [35S]-sulfate incorporation with various dose of dexamethasone and TGF- 1(10 ng/ml). White bar denotes culture with TGF- 1. Dexamethasone with a concentration of 10 nM, 100 nM, and 1000 nM renders decreased proteoglycan synthesis compared to control (p<0.05). Culture with dexamethasone and TGF- 1(10 ng/ml) showed further decrease in proteoglycan synthesis at 1nM of dexamethasone. * p<0.05

(0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM)

(Fig. 4).

7. Dexamethasone TGF- 1

Reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction

aggrecan mRNA, TGF- 1(10 ng/ml), dexamethasone(0.1, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM), I, II mRNA, 가, 50~60%, mRNA, dexamethasone (Fig. 5).

가

2,3)

7,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30),

가

16,17).

dexamethasone

sone TGF- 1 가 dexametha-
sone 가

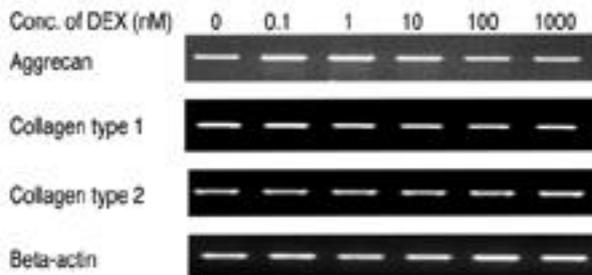


Fig. 4. Expression of aggrecan, type I collagen, and type II collagen mRNA measured by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. Cultures with various dose of dexamethasone showed no significant changes in the expression of aggrecan, type I collagen and type II collagen mRNA expression. Densitometric data was normalized by β -actin.

sonne dexametha-
10nM

DNA 가가 100 nM
100% DNA 가가
dexamethasone

TGF- 1
TGF- 1

dexamethasone(1 nM)
100 nM dexamethasone
ethasone 2 (DNA)
ethasone TGF- 1 dexam-

Dexamethasone

가 10 nM
40% 가

dexamethasone

TGF- 1 가
ethasone dexamethasone dexam-
dexamethasone TGF- 1

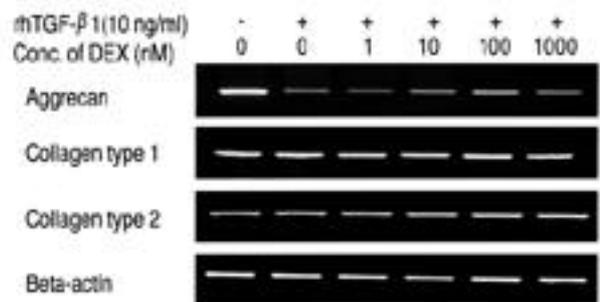


Fig. 5. Expression of aggrecan, type I collagen, and type II collagen mRNA measured by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. Cultures with various dose of dexamethasone and with TGF- 1(10 ng/ml) showed down-regulation of aggrecan mRNA expression while unchanged pattern in type I collagen and type II collagen mRNA expression. Densitometric data was normalized by β -actin.

가

가 matrix metalloproteinase

가

dexamethasone

7),

dexamethasone

6,8,7,9),

10)

11,12)

Safranin O

가

13,14)

dexamethasone

15)

가

dexamethasone

가

가

dexamethasone

42,43)

II

dexamethasone TGF- 1

31,32,33,34)

3

가

21,22)

가

dexamethasone TGF- 1

(Cushing

syndrome, Cushing disease, renal allograft)

. Dex-

amethasone

amethasone

3

dex-

가

36,37,38,39)

21,22,40,41)

가

dexamethasone

TGF- 1 DNA

가

가

dexamethasone

TGF- 1

1. Dexamethasone DNA
 TGF- 1
 가 .
 2. dexamethasone
 가 TGF- 1
 .
 3. Dexamethasone
 (aggrecan, I , II)
 가 .
 4. TGF- 1 aggrecan mRNA
 I , II mRNA
 .
 Dexamethasone
 가
 Dexamethasone
 가 .

- 1) **Behrend F, Kemppainen RJ:** *Glucocorticoid therapy, pharmacology, indications, and complications. Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract 1997; 27:187-213.*
- 2) **Gotti E, Perico N, Perna A, et al:** *Renal transplantation: can we reduce calcineurin inhibitor/stop steroids? Evidence based on protocol biopsy findings. J Am Soc Nephrol 2003; 14:755-766.*
- 3) **Parameswaran K, Leigh R, O 'Byrne PM, et al:** *Clinical models to compare the safety and efficacy of inhaled corticosteroids in patients with asthma. Can Respir J 2003; 10:27-34.*
- 4) **Young AL, Rao SK, Cheng LL, Wong AK, Leung AT, Lam DS:** *Combined intravenous pulse methylprednisolone and oral cyclosporine A in the treatment of corneal graft rejection: 5 year experience, Eye 2002; 16:304-308.*
- 5) **Grassi W, Farina A, Filippucci E, Cervini C:** *Intralesional therapy in carpal tunnel syndrome: a sonographic-guided approach. Clin Exp Rheumatol 2002; 20:73-76.*
- 6) **Raynauld JP, Buckland-Wright C, Ward R, et al:** *Safety and efficacy of long-term intraarticular steroid injections in osteoarthritis of the knee: a randomized, double-*

- blind, placebo-controlled trial. Arthritis Rheum 2003; 48:370-377.*
- 7) **Pelletier JP, Mineau F, Raynauld JP, Woessner JR, Gunjasmith Z, Martel-Pelletier J:** *Intraarticular injection with methylprednisolone acetate reduce osteoarthritic lesion in parallel with chondrocyte stromelisin synthesis in experimental osteoarthritis. Arthritis Rheuma 1994; 37:414-423.*
- 8) **Grigoriadis AE, Heersche JN, Aubin JE:** *Differentiation of muscle, fat, cartilage and bone from progenitor cells present in a bone marrow derived clonal cell population, effect of dexamethasone. J Cell Biol 1988; 106:2139-2151.*
- 9) **Takano T, Takigawa M, Suzuki F:** *Stimulation by glucocorticoids of the differentiated phenotype of chondrocytes and the proliferation of rabbit costal chondrocytes in culture. J Biochem 1985; 97:1093-1100.*
- 10) **Silbermann M, Maor G:** *Receptor mediated glucocorticoid inhibition of cell proliferation in mouse growth cartilage in vivo. Acta Endocriolo 1985; 108:343-350.*
- 11) **Moskowitz RW, Davis W, Sammarco J, Mast W, Chase SW:** *Experimentally induced corticosteroid arthropathy. Arthritis Rheuma 1970; 13:263-277.*
- 12) **Salter RB, Gross A, Hall JH:** *Hydrocortisone arthropathy, an experimental investigation. Can Med J 1967; 97:374-377.*
- 13) **Chunekamrai S, Knook LP, Lust G, Maylin GA:** *Changes in articular cartilage after intraarticular injections of methyl-prednisolone acetate into equine joints. Am J Vet Res 1989; 50:1733-1741.*
- 14) **Trotter GW, McIlwraith CW, Yovich JV, et al:** *Effects of intraarticular administration of methylprednisolone acetate on normal equine articular cartilage. Am J Vet Res 1991; 52:83-87.*
- 15) **Tressler RH and Salmon WD:** *Glucocorticoid inhibition of sulfate incorporation by cartilage of normal rat. Endocrinology 1975; 96:898-902.*
- 16) **Higuchi M, Abe K:** *Ultrastructure of the nucleus pulposus in the intervertebral disc after systemic administration of hydrocortisone in mice. Spine 1985; 10:638-643.*
- 17) **Aoki M, Kato F, Minmatsu K, Iwata H:** *Histologic changes in intervertebral disc after intradiscal injections of methylprednisolone acetate in rabbits. Spine 1997; 22:127-131.*
- 18) **Minamida A, Tamaki T, Hashizume H, Yoshida M, Kawakami M, Hayashi N:** *Effects of steroid and*

- lipopolysaccharide on spontaneous resorption of herniated intervertebral disc, an experimental study in the rabbit. *Spine* 1998; 23:870-876.
- 19) **Gruber HE, Fisher EC, Desani B, Stasky AA, Hoelscher G, Hanley EN:** Human intervertebral disc cells from the annulus: three dimensional culture in agarose or alginate and responsiveness to TGF- β 1. *Exp Cell Res* 1997; 235:13-21.
 - 20) **Thompson JP, Oegema TR, Bradford DS:** Stimulation of mature canine intervertebral disc by growth factors. *Spine* 1991; 16:253-260.
 - 21) **Moon SH, Nishida K, Gilbertson LG, Hall RA, Robbins PD, Kang JD:** Cocktail therapeutic gene transfer to human intervertebral disc cells cultured in three-dimensional alginate beads. *Proceedings of North American Spine Society, New Orleans, 2000.*
 - 22) **Nishida K, Kang JD, Gilbertson LG, et al:** Modulation of the biologic activity of the rabbit intervertebral disc by gene therapy: An in vivo study of adenovirus-mediated transfer of the human transforming growth factor β 1 encoding gene. *Spine* 1999; 24:2419-2425.
 - 23) **Cutroneo KR:** Relationship between glucocorticoid-mediated early decrease of protein synthesis and the steady state decrease of glucocorticoid receptor and TGF- β activator protein. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol* 2002; 34:194-203.
 - 24) **Karin M:** New twists in gene regulation by glucocorticoid receptor: is DNA binding dispensable? *Cell* 1998; 93:487-490.
 - 25) **Song CZ, Tian X, Gelehert TD:** Glucocorticoid receptor inhibits transforming growth factor beta signalling by directly targeting the transcriptional activation function of Smad3. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 1999; 96:1776-1781.
 - 26) **Heldin CH, Miyazono K, ten Dijke P:** TGF- β signalling from cell membrane to nucleus through SMAD proteins. *Nature* 1997; 390(6659):465-471.
 - 27) **Massague J, Blain SW, Lo RS:** TGF- β signaling in growth control, cancer, and heritable disorders. *Cell* 2000; 103:295-309.
 - 28) **Guller S, Wozniak R, Kong L, Lockwood CJ:** Opposing actions of transforming growth factor- β and glucocorticoids in the regulation of fibronectin expression in the human placenta. *J Clin Endocrinol Metabol* 80:3272-3278.
 - 29) **Slavin J, Unemori E, Hunt T, Amento E:** Transforming growth factor beta (TGF- β) and dexamethasone have direct opposing effects on collagen metabolism in low passage human dermal fibroblasts in vitro. *Growth factor* 1994; 11:205-213.
 - 30) **Guan Y, Woo PL, Rubenstein NM, Firestone GL:** Transforming growth factor alpha abrogates the glucocorticoid stimulation of tight junction formation and reverse the steroid induced downregulation of fascin in rat mammary epithelial tumor cells by a Ras-dependent pathway. *Exp Cell Res* 2002; 273:1-11.
 - 31) **Hardingham TE, Adams P. A:** method for the determination of hyaluronate in the presence of other glycosaminoglycans and its application to human intervertebral discs. *Biochem J* 1976; 159:143-147.
 - 32) **Lipson SJ, Muir H:** Proteoglycans in experimental intervertebral disc degeneration. *Spine* 1981; 6:194-210.
 - 33) **Melrose J, Ghosh P, Taylor TKF, et al:** A longitudinal study of the matrix changes induced in the intervertebral disc by surgical damage to the annulus fibrosus. *J Orthop Res* 1992; 10:665-676.
 - 34) **Pearce RH, Grimmer BJ, Adams ME:** Degeneration and the chemical composition of the human lumbar intervertebral disc. *J Orthop Res* 1987; 5:198-205.
 - 35) **Buckwalter JA:** Aging and degeneration of the human intervertebral disc. *Spine* 1995; 20:1307-1314.
 - 36) **Ganey TM, Meisel HJ:** A potential role for cell-based therapeutics in the treatment of intervertebral disc herniation. *Eur Spine J* 2002; 2:S206-214.
 - 37) **Gruber HE, Hanley EN Jr:** Recent advances in disc cell biology. *Spine* 2003; 28:186-193.
 - 38) **Gruber HE, Johnson TL, Leslie K, et al:** Autologous intervertebral disc cell implantation: a model using *Psammomys obesus*, the sand rat. *Spine* 2002; 27:1626-1633.
 - 39) **Sato M, Asazuma T, Ishihara M, et al:** An experimental study of the regeneration of the intervertebral disc with an allograft of cultured annulus fibrosus cells using a tissue-engineering method. *Spine* 2003; 28:548-553.
 - 40) **Moon SH, Gilbertson LG, Nishida K, et al:** Human intervertebral disc cells are genetically modifiable by adenovirus-mediated gene transfer. *Spine* 2000; 25:2573-2579.
 - 41) **Nishida K, Kang JD, Suh J-K, Robbins PD, Evans CH, Gilbertson LG:** Adenovirus-mediated gene transfer to nucleus pulposus cells: Implication for the treatment of intervertebral disc degeneration. *Spine* 1998; 3:2437-2443.
 - 42) **Ito S, Usui H, Maruyama K, Muro T:** Roentgenographic evaluation of ossification and calcification of the lumbar

spinal canal after intradiscal betamethasone injection. *J Spinal Disord* 2001; 14:434-438.

Intradiscal steroids. A prospective double-blind clinical trial. *Spine* 1992; 17:S172-175.

43) **Simmons JW, McMillin JN, Emery SF, Kimmich SJ:**

██████████

:

:

Methylprednisolone acetate

hydrocortisone

가 . TGF- 1 , , , dexametha-

가 sone TGF- 1 .

: 10 , ,

dexamethasone , TGF- 1 3-[4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-

diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay DNA [3H]-thymidine incorpora-

tion, [35S]-sulfate incorporation . aggrecan, mRNA

RT-PCR densitometric assay .

: Dexamethasone DNA TGF- 1 가

.

: Dexamethasone 가

Dexamethasone

가 .

: Dexamethasone, , TGF- 1, ,

: