Isolation and characterization of dental pulp stem cells from a supernumerary tooth

Anderson Hsien-Cheng Huang1, Yuk-Kwan Chen2, Lin-Min Lin2, Tien-Yue Shieh3, Anthony Wing-Sang Chan4

1Grace Dental Clinic; 2Departments of Oral Pathology and 3Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, School of Dentistry, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; 4Department of Human Genetics, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

BACKGROUND: Dental pulp stem cells (DPSCs) were primarily derived from the pulp tissues of primary incisors and permanent third molar teeth, whereas no report to our knowledge has yet been documented on deriving DPSCs from the other tooth types. The aim of this study is to present a novel approach of harvesting stem cells from a supernumerary tooth (a mesiodens).

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The pulp tissues from a mesiodens of a 20-year-old healthy male patient and the left lower deciduous canine of a healthy 10-year-old boy (the positive control) were extracted and cultured for DPSCs, which were examined with stem cells (Oct-4, Nanog and Rex-1) and differentiation (Osteonectin and Nestin) markers. Furthermore, DPSCs were directionally differentiated to osteogenic and adipogenic cell lineages.

RESULTS: Dental pulp stem cells derived from the mesiodens were capable of differentiating into adipogenic and osteogenic lineages. The mesiodens’ DPSCs also expressed stem cell and differentiation markers, which suggested their stem cell origin and differentiation capability. All the aforementioned results for the mesiodens were consistent with those of the DPSCs derived from the positive control.

CONCLUSION: We have demonstrated the feasibility of deriving DPSCs from a usually discarded tissue such as a supernumerary tooth.

Materials and methods

A healthy 20-year-old male patient required the extraction of a supernumerary tooth (a mesiodens) (Fig. 1A, B). A deciduous tooth (left lower canine) was also removed from a healthy 10-year-old boy because of high mobility for positive control. Both the mesiodens and deciduous tooth were removed using local anesthesia with the consent of the patient (for mesiodens) and the patient’s parents (for deciduous tooth). Both teeth (mesiodens and deciduous tooth) were kept on ice in Dulbecco’s phosphate buffered saline (DPBS; Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and delivered to the laboratory for the isolation of DPSCs. The surfaces of both teeth were first cleaned with DPBS and a groove of 0.5–1.0 mm deep was cut around the circumference of the teeth using a sterile hand-held high-speed drill. The dental pulps were exposed by splitting the teeth with a chisel along the groove. The pulp tissues of both teeth were then extracted with endodontic files.

The extracted pulp tissues were subsequently digested in collagenase type I (3 mg/ml, Invitrogen) and dispase (4 mg/ml, Invitrogen) for 1 h at 37°C (1). The resulted cell suspensions from both teeth were filtered through a 40-μm cell strainer (Falcon, BD, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA), and the single cell suspensions were then cultured in a DPSC medium containing α-modified Eagle’s...
medium (Hyclone, Logan, UT, USA), 20% fetal bovine serum (Hyclone), 100 μM l-ascorbic acid-2-phosphate (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA), 100 units/ml penicillin (Sigma), and 100 μg/ml streptomycin (Invitrogen). DPSCs were cultured at 37°C with 5% CO₂. Fresh medium was replaced every 2 days and at 100% confluence for optimal cell harvesting.

Third passage DPSCs from both the mesiodens and deciduous tooth were seeded in a 6-well plate at 40 single cells/well with three replicas. After 2 weeks in culture, the cells were fixed in 10% buffered formalin for 10 min and stained with 3% (v/v) crystal violet (Sigma) for 5 min. The cells were washed twice with distilled water and the number of colonies was counted. Colonies greater than 2 mm in diameter were enumerated, if it was too small it could be the fold-off cell or satellite cell that was growing instead of the cell originally seeded. The percentage colony forming efficiency was expressed as the total number of colonies divided by the initial number of cells that were seeded and multiplied by 100 (5). As a result, 72% of the DPSCs derived from mesiodens and 83% of the DPSCs from deciduous tooth were capable of forming colonies.

To differentiate adipogenic lineage, the third passage DPSCs were seeded at 400 cells/cm² in a 35-mm tissue culture dish and cultured for 11 days in a DPSC medium until confluence was achieved. The DPSC medium was subsequently supplemented with 5 μg/ml insulin (Sigma), 50 μM indomethacin (Sigma), 1 μM dexamethasone (Sigma), and 0.5 μM isobutyl-1-methyl xanthine (Sigma). The cultures were then placed in an incubator at 37°C and 5% CO₂ for another 21 days with medium changes, three times per week. As control, DPSC medium only was used. At the end of the cultivation period, the cells were then fixed in 10% buffered formalin for 10 min and stained with oil-red-O (Sigma) to stain lipid vacuoles (5). To differentiate osteogenic lineage, the cells were prepared as described except that 1 nM dexamethasone (Sigma), 20 mM β-glycerolphosphate (Sigma), and 50 ng/ml l-thyroxine sodium pentahydrate (Sigma) were supplemented in the DPSC medium on day 11. The culture was incubated at

Table 1 Specific primer sets targeting for stem cell and differentiation markers as well as GADPH used as control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primers</th>
<th>Sequences</th>
<th>PCR products</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct4</td>
<td>Forward: 5'-AAG AAC ATG TGT AAG CTG CGG CCC-3'</td>
<td>455-bp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reverse: 5'-GGA AAG GCT TCC CCC TCA GGG AAA GG-3'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rex-1</td>
<td>Forward: 5'-AGA ATT CGC TTG AGT ATT CTG A-3'</td>
<td>470-bp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reverse: 5'-GGC TTT CAG GTT ATT TGA CTG A-3'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanog</td>
<td>Forward: 5'-TCT CTC CTC TTC CTT CCA-3'</td>
<td>389-bp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reverse: 5'-GGA AGA GTA GAG GCT GGG GT-3'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nestin</td>
<td>Forward: 5'-TGG CAA GGC GAC TGG GGC A-3'</td>
<td>810-bp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reverse: 5'-CCC TTC ATG GCT GTT TCT TTC TT-3'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteonectin</td>
<td>Forward: 5'-ATC TTC TTT CTC CTT TGC CTG G-3'</td>
<td>323-bp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reverse: 5'-GCA CAC CTC TCA AAC TCG CC-3'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAPDH</td>
<td>Forward: 5'-ATG GGG AAG GTG AAG GTC GG-3'</td>
<td>596-bp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reverse: 5'-CCA TCA CGC CAC AGT TTC CC-3'</td>
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GAPDH, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase.
Figure 3 The human DPSCs stained with crystal violet were able to form colonies for both mesiodens (A, B) and deciduous tooth (C, D).

Figure 4 Dental pulp stem cells of mesiodens were able to differentiate between adipogenic (A) and osteogenic lineage (B), whereas DPSCs of the deciduous tooth were also able to differentiate between osteogenic (C) and adipogenic lineage (D).
37°C and 5% CO₂ for another 21 days with medium changes, three times per week. As control, DPSC medium only was used. At the end of the cultivation period, DPSCs of both mesiodens and deciduous tooth were fixed in 10% buffered formalin for 10 min and stained with alizarin red S (Wako, Osaka, Japan) for 15 min at room temperature that the mineral matrix of bone could be observed (5).

In addition, we have determined if DPSCs of both mesiodens and deciduous tooth shared similar expression pattern of stem cell and differentiation markers as previously described in DPSCs (1) and BMSCs (2) by the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction. Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase was the positive control whereas H₂O was the negative control.

In conclusion, this report has described the successful isolation and characterization of DPSCs from the pulp tissue of a mesiodens. Supernumerary teeth usually discarded after extraction might therefore represent a valuable source of human DPSCs.

References

Acknowledgement
AWSC has an advisory role in experimental design, analysis and preparation manuscript.

Figure 5  Dental pulp stem cells of mesiodens (A) and deciduous tooth (B) expressed the stem cell (Oct-4, Nanog and Rex-1) and differentiation (Osteonectin and Nestin) markers upon reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction. Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase was the positive control whereas H₂O was the negative control.

Results
Dental pulp stem cells from both the mesiodens and deciduous tooth proliferated rapidly with spindle shape morphology (Fig. 2A,B). Following the third passage, a homogenous population of DPSCs of both teeth was acquired and maintained in the culture based on cell morphology. We found that 72% of the DPSCs derived from mesiodens (Fig. 3A,B) and 83% of the DPSCs from deciduous tooth (Fig. 3C,D) were capable of forming colonies. Furthermore, DPSCs of both mesiodens and deciduous tooth were successful in differentiating into adipogenic (Fig. 4A,B) and osteogenic (Fig. 4C,D) lineages. Also, we have determined that DPSCs of both mesiodens and deciduous tooth expressed stem cell and differentiation markers (Fig. 5A,B).

Discussion
The derivation of DPSCs was first described in 2000 (1). They share similar expression profiles and differentiation capabilities to that of BMSCs (1, 2). Most of the prior studies on DPSCs are focused on primary incisors and permanent third molar teeth (1); here, we demonstrated the feasibility of deriving DPSCs from a supernumerary tooth (a mesiodens). Being able to isolate DPSCs from a supernumerary tooth, as demonstrated in this report, we could extend the potential and possibility of the source of DPSCs. Furthermore, DPSCs would be the most convenient source of stem cells because teeth were easy to retrieve and removed throughout life.

In conclusion, this report has described the successful isolation and characterization of DPSCs from the pulp tissue of a mesiodens. Supernumerary teeth usually discarded after extraction might therefore represent a valuable source of human DPSCs.