

Supplementary Materials: Melanoma Cells Can Adopt the Phenotype of Stromal Fibroblasts and Macrophages by Spontaneous Cell Fusion *in Vitro*

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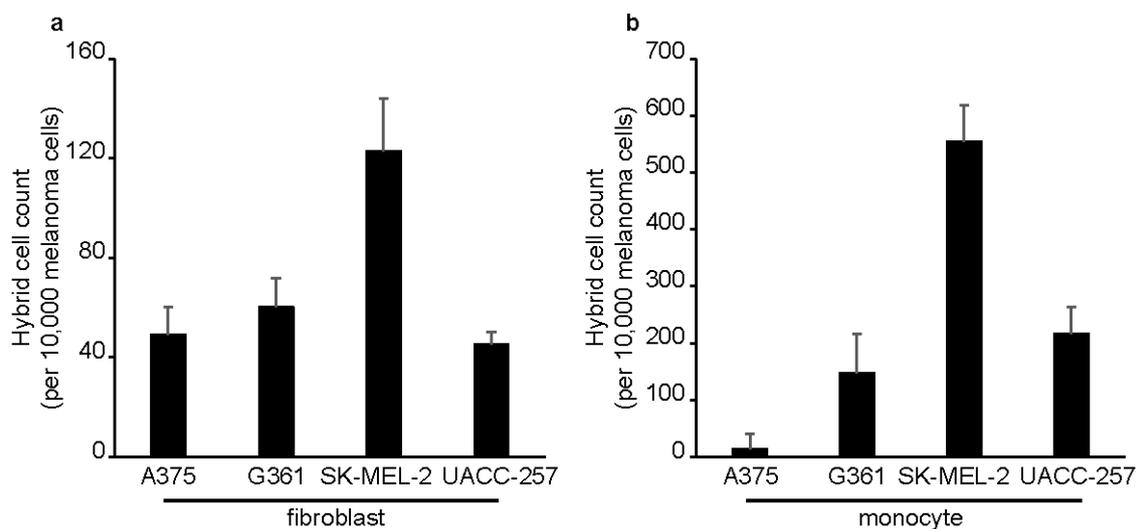


Figure S1. Hybrid cell counts in different melanoma cell lines. Melanoma–fibroblast (a) and melanoma–monocyte (b) hybrid cell counts compared to 10,000 melanoma cells after 24 h of co-culture measured with flow cytometry. Means of three experiments + SD are shown.

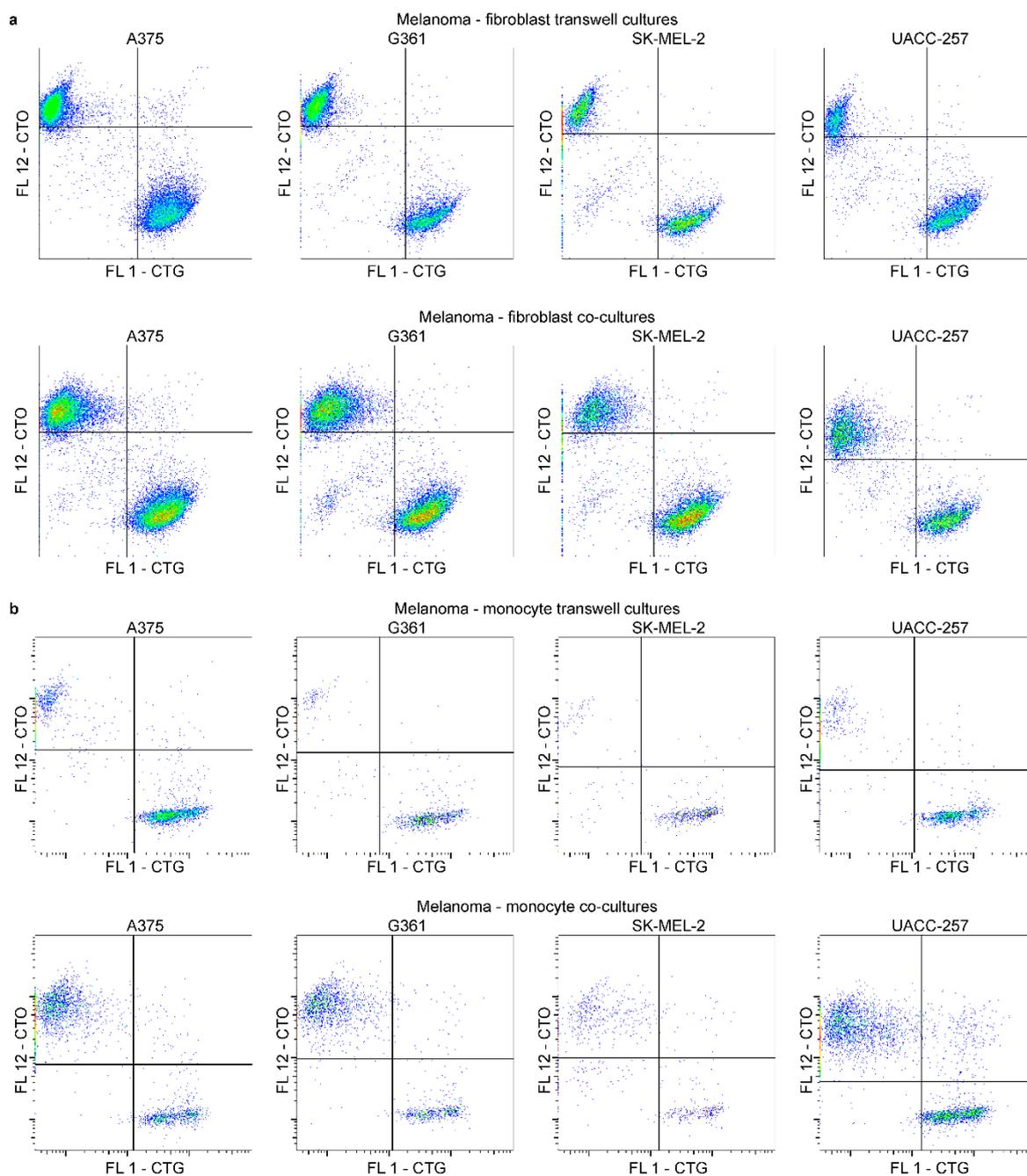


Figure S2. All investigated melanoma cell lines fuse spontaneously with human dermal fibroblasts and peripheral blood derived monocytes. **(a,b)** Representative pseudocoloured dot plots of melanoma-fibroblast **(a)** and melanoma-monocyte **(b)** transwell **(upper rows)** and co-cultures **(lower rows)** from three experiments. Since the different cells could only fuse in co-cultures but not in transwell cultures, fusion rate was determined as the rate of double positive cells detected in transwell cultures subtracted from that of co-cultures.

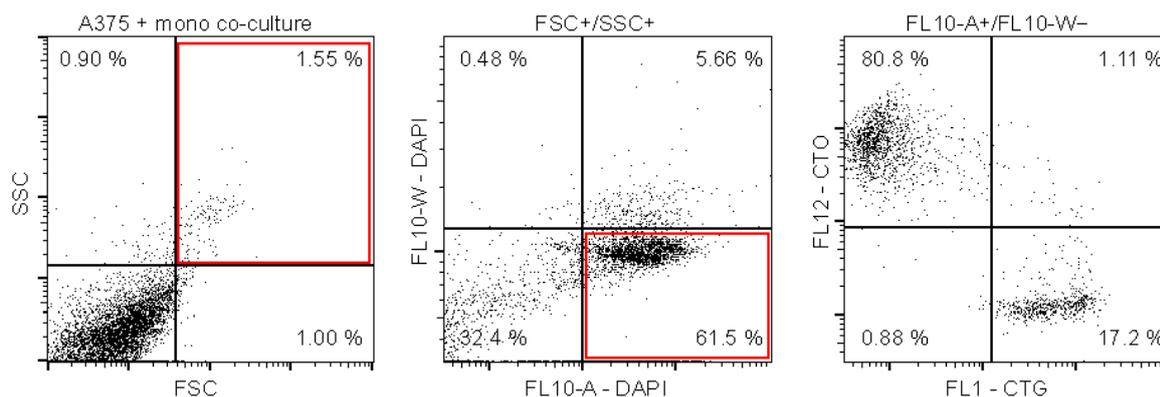


Figure S3. Gating mechanisms in flow cytometry for the measurement of cell fusion rates. Representative dot plots of an A375-monoocyte co-culture. In the forward scatter (FSC)–side scatter (SSC) plot (**left panel**) cell debris is excluded upon gating the events in the upper right quadrant. In the FL10-A–FL10-W plot (**middle panel**) only the FSC + /SSC + events are displayed. FL10-A – cells are considered as apoptotic cells while FL10-W + cells as cell doublets and are therefore excluded. Only FL10-A + /FL10-W – cells are displayed in the CellTracker Green (CTG)–CellTracker Orange (CTO) plot (**right panel**), in which CTG + /CTO – cells are monocytes and CTG – /CTO + cells are melanoma cells.