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Extracellular Vesicles: Potential Roles in Regenerative Medicine

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are secreted by most cells and exert their effects by fusion to the target cells and transferring their cargo, which may include bioactive molecules. EVs are modulators of ECM turnover, angiogenesis, immune responses, stem cell survival, proliferation, and differentiation and have important roles in pathological conditions, such as cancer, inflammation, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, as well as in wound healing.

Since EVs can deliver to specific target cell their contents that can also be modified by design and influence, the behavior of recipient cells suggests the potential of EVs as therapeutic delivery vehicles. Mesenchymal stem cell derived exosomes have protective activities in myocardial infarction, stroke, brain injury, and potential in enhancing cutaneous and corneal wound healing. Thus, EVs have a great potential for treatment of a variety of diseases due to their high stability and low immunogenicity. They can be loaded easily with drugs, miRNAs, or proteins of interest and then injected systemically or locally into the target tissues.

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