

Special Issue

Focal Chondral Defects

Message from the Guest Editors

Focal chondral defects are a common cause of joint complaints and impairment, affecting negatively the quality of life of patients. Given the poor self-healing capability of the cartilage, isolated chondral and osteochondral defects are a difficult clinical challenge, especially for younger patients. Focal chondral defects left untreated, or managed sub-optimally, can lead to osteoarthritis over time. Despite the progress made in the clinical sciences, no consensus regarding the best treatment for focal chondral defects has been reached. Advances in cell-based and delivery techniques for the repair of focal chondral defects have yielded much interest. The future of managing cartilage defects is supposed to lie in providing biologic solutions through cartilage regeneration and tissue engineering. The purpose of this Special Issue is to investigate current strategies and future perspectives for the management of focal chondral defects of the hip, knee, and ankle.

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