Effects of Melatonin upon Vascularity of Cartilage End Plate of Intervertebral Disc

Yigit Uyanıkgıl1, Emel Oykü Cetin2 and Mehmet Turgut4**

1Department of Histology and Embryology, Ege University, School of Medicine, İzmir, Turkey
2Cord Blood, Cell-Tissue Research and Application Center, Ege University, Faculty of Pharmacy, İzmir, Turkey
3Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics, Ege University, Faculty of Pharmacy, İzmir, Turkey
4Department of Neurosurgery, Adnan Menderes University, School of Medicine, Aydın, Turkey

Editorial

Anatomically, intervertebral disc (IVD) consists of three part; nucleus pulposus, annulus fibrosus and cartilage end plate (CEP) at the cranial and caudal vertebral interface of the disc [1,2]. In both animals and humans, the IVD consists largely of extracellular matrix with a low cell density. In many respects, that degeneration and age-related changes are characterised by biochemical and structural changes components of the IVD [1,3].

On the other hand, melatonin (MEL) is a secretory product synthesized by the pineal gland. It is formulated with N-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine. MEL has a scavenger effect on hydroxyl and peroxyl molecules and may have anti-ageing properties due to its antioxidant nature [4,5]. During the last decade, some authors suggested that pineal neurohormone MEL has various effects upon some bone markers and osteoblast differentiation in relation to aging [6-8]. Nevertheless, the mechanism of the effect of MEL on trabecular width ligament thickness and degenerated IVD tissue are not clear to date [6]. Roth et al. [7] reported that MEL, applied in micromolar concentrations, was a mitogen for bone tissues. It has been suggested that MEL promotes osteoblast differentiation and matrix mineralisation via transmembrane receptors and regulates bone remodelling [7,8]. Turgut et al. [9] reported that MEL was applied as a treatment to the created degenerative effects of surgery on CEP and exogenous MEL significantly increased vascularity on trabecular reduction in width, suggesting its regenerative effects in IVD tissue degeneration.

Consequently, it is certain that further experiments and randomized controlled clinical studies should be done for standardization of the clinical use of MEL upon the vascularity of CEP of IVD. However, we strongly hope that future search will confirm the useful effects of novel drug MEL treatment as a biological anti-ageing agent to treating IVD degeneration.

References

*Corresponding author: Mehmet Turgut, M.D., PhD, Cumhuriyet Mahalleisi, Adnan Menderes Bulvari, Halltur Apartmanı No: 6/7, 09020 Aydın, Turkey, Tel: +90 256 2134874; Fax: +90 256 2120146; E-mail: drmturgut@yahoo.com

Received April 03, 2016; Accepted April 05, 2016; Published April 07, 2016


Copyright © 2016 Uyanıkgıl Y, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.