



# Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Trials



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# Outline

- Review of BMC Therapy
- Current Challenges
- NHLBI Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network Trials
- Lessons Learned

# Review of BMC Therapy in IHD

- Trials from 2002-2012
- 50 studies; 2625 patients
- BMMNCs (36), BMCs (5),  
CD 133+/CD34+ (6), MSCs/EPCs (3)

Ref: Circ 2012: 126(5):551-68

# Characteristics from 50 BMC Trials

- Number of Patients: 10 → 391; (39)
- Cell Number:  $2 \times 10^6$  →  $60 \times 10^9$ ; ( $100 \times 10^6$ )
- Timing of Delivery: 1 → 18.4 days; (6.7 d)
- Average EF: 21% → 62%; (43%)
- Follow-up: 3 → 6 months; (6 months)
- Blinded/non-blinded patients

\* Median in parentheses

## Results from 50 BMC Trials

- LVEF ↑ by 3.96% (24 months)
- Infarct size ↓ by 4.03%
- LVESV ↓ by 8.9 ml
- LVEDV ↓ by 5.23 ml
- $100 \times 10^6$  cells were sufficient;  $<40 \times 10^6$  were not
- Decrease in all cause mortality, cardiac mortality and stent thrombosis

# Current Challenges/Issues

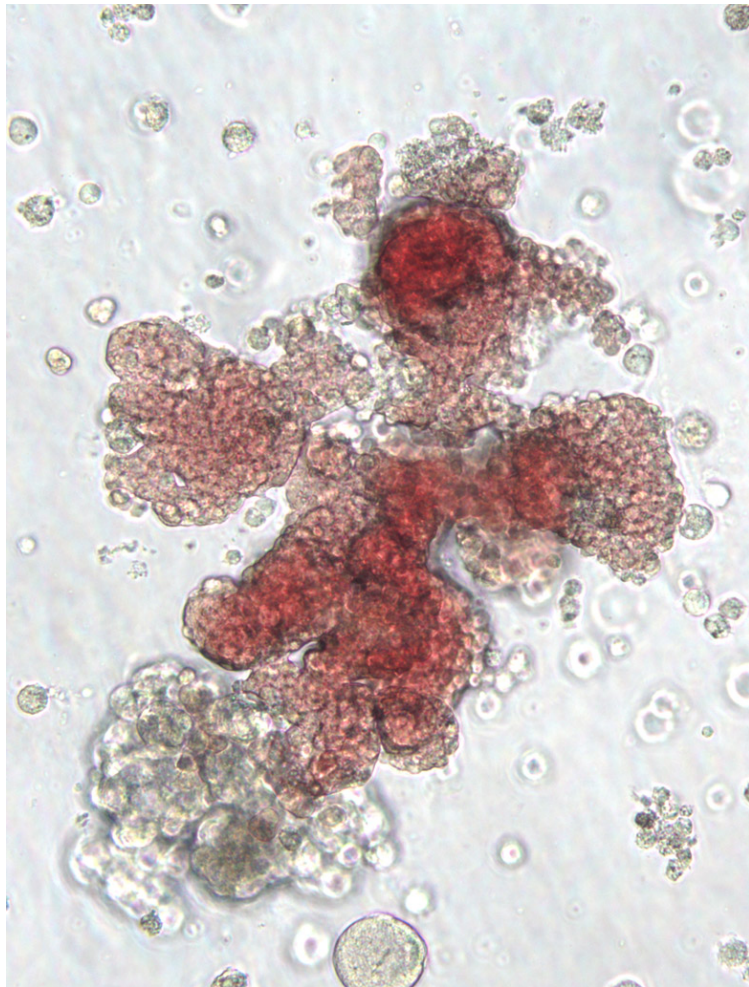
- Patient population: are we selecting the right patients (acute MI, HF)
- Cell types and dose: which cells are best? What dose is optimal?
- Timing of delivery: is early post MI or later best?
- Delivery route: intracoronary vs. intramyocardial

## Current Challenges/Issues (2)

- Imaging: results vary depending on which imaging tool is used
- Cell Preparation: do we have a standard process?
- Selection of endpoints: should we select one endpoint or more than one?
- Design of protocol: randomized, blinded, small number of patients. Is it safety or efficacy?

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# Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network (CCTRN)



To promote and accelerate clinical research in the evaluation of novel cell therapy treatment strategies for individuals with cardiovascular disease

**Red blood cell colony derived from human embryonic stem cells  
image from the University of Wisconsin-Madison**



## CCTRN Trials

- LateTIME (87 patients) : Effect of Late (2-3 week post MI) BMMNCs administration (150 million cells) on measures of LV function (AHA 2011). First BMC trial to deliver standardized dose of cells.
- FOCUS (92 Patients): Effect of transmyocardial BMMNCs administration (100 million cells) in patients with chronic ischemic disease with LV dysfunction. (ACC 2012)

# CCTRN Trial Results

- LateTIME: no improvement in global or regional LV function at 6 months
  - MRI measurements more sensitive
  - Heterogeneity of cells; inflammatory changes
  - Patient population; EF too high to start off

## CCTRN Trial Results (2)

- FOCUS: no improvement in LV function, maximal oxygen consumption or lesion reversibility.
  - Assumed ambitious improvements in primary endpoints; at time had no results from other trials
  - **BUT** BMC group had improved LVEF (2.7%) compared with placebo group and maximal oxygen consumption improved in younger patients

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# Lessons Learned in Protocol Design

- Disappointing results but valuable for designing future trials.
- Select endpoints from different domains: structural evaluations; physiological measurements; biomarkers; functional capacity; quality of life.
- Endpoint event rates or mean changes must be established with predetermined precision.

## Other Lessons Learned

- Distributed cell processing was an effective strategy (never carried out before)
- In vitro analyses demonstrated the equivalence of Sepax vs manual procedure
- Development of novel imaging endpoints (regional LV function based on wall motion)
- New ways to recruit patients (use of DVD, identification of the importance of garnering support for the family to recruit a family member)

# Thank You

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