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Synergistic effect of PBMC and BM-MSC on the percentage of integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$ in full thickness burn in Rats

Abstract

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Burn is a health concern in the community because burn injury will lead to physical disability and even death. Therefore, a proper treatment is needed in burn. Though there are many available treatments for burns, the result remains unsatisfying. So, it is necessary to find another optional treatment for burns, one of which is by using stem cell to repair the anatomy of skin and its functions. In fact, the administration of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cell combination on burns has not yet been carried out.

This study was aimed to analyse the influence of administration of combination of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells on the expression of integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$ in burn healing process in rats.

An experimental study with the post test only control design has been carried out on 12 young Wistar rats which were divided into two groups : control group (PBS), and treated group (PBMC and BM-MSC combination). Stem cells were given subcutaneously with dose 2×10^6 cell/ml. A full thickness burns was made on their shaved dorsum which has been anesthetized before with xylazine and ketamine. At day 14, the expression of integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$ from skin tissues was examined by immunohistochemical examination. This study has received approval from the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, Andalas University, Padang. The results were analyzed by oneway ANOVA test and further test Tukey.

Immunochemical examination of skin tissues showed that the administration of combination of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells can increase the percentage of integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$ and this result statistically shows significant difference.

This study concluded that the administration of combination of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells on burns can accelerate burn healing process in rats. It is suggested that the stem cell might be working through paracrine effect by affecting growth hormones and cytokines which then will affect micro environment of burn tissues and speed up the migration of cells that play role in wound healing. This situation will accelerate healing process from inflammatory phase to remodelling phase.

Key word : PBMC, BM-MSC, Integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$, wound healing.

Introduction

A burn is a serious problem for the community because it can cause physical damage or even death. A burn is a type of injury caused by heat, chemicals, electricity and radiation. The damage and the severity of burns depend on the sites, depth and extent of injuries (Evers et al, 2010).

Temperature and duration of contact have a synergistic effect in depth of burn. Burns are classified as first-degree (superficial), second-degree (partial -thickness) and third-degree (full-thickness) depending on how deep and severe they penetrate the skin's surface. A full-thickness burn destroy epidermis and dermis layer. This condition needs a good and proper treatment to accelerate wound healing. Burn wound healing is a complex process involving several interrelated stages such as inflammation, proliferation (formation of granulation tissues, reepithelization, extracellular matrix formation) and remodelling. All of these phases involving interaction of mediators, cells, and extracellular matrix proteins (Syamsuhidayat *et al.*, 2003 ; Vern *et al.*, 2001). Cytokines, growth factors and adhesion molecules are chemical responses. Cytokines founded were *interleukin-1* (IL-1), IL-6 dan *tumor necrosis factors- α* (TNF- α) which act as proinflammation (Kumar *et al.*, 2004).

Adhesion molecules involved in wound healing are E and P selectin, *intercellular adhesion molecule* (ICAM), *vascular cell adhesion molecule* (VCAM) dan integrin (Lorenz *et al.*, 2003; Kotowict *et al.*, 2000; Nagoka *et al.*, 2000). Adhesion molecules play role in Adhesion molecules play a role to help the migration of neutrophil cells, keratinocytes and fibroblasts. Integrins are transmembrane adhesion molecule receptors consisting of α and β subunits, in which the 2 sub unit join to perform its functions and it has been found 24 types of integrins. The combination of integrins is quite varied and are found in epidermal keratinocytes is particularly $\alpha 1\beta 1$, $\alpha 2\beta 1$, $\alpha 3\beta 1$ and $\alpha 6\beta 4$, and the most common integrin is $\alpha 2\beta 1$. During wound healing, integrin $\alpha 2\beta 1$ roles in hemostatic, cell migration, and reepithelization until wound closure occurred, because this integrin plays a role in regulation of keratinocyte (Cavani et al., 1993). This suggested that the $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin plays a role in wound healing. For this reason, the study on the influence of combination of PBMC and BM-MSc stem cells on the expression $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin needs to be carried out.

PBMC stem cells are hematopoietic cells consisting of monocytes, fibrocytes, and *epithelial progenitor cell* /EPC. Monocytes and fibrocytes can have character as APC and produce cytokines and growth hormones that play a role in inflammation, formation of collagen and (Abe *et al.*, 2001). Meanwhile, BM-MSc is a non hematopoietic cells

characterized as multipotent progenitor and is able to differentiate into chondrocytes, osteoblast, fibroblast, epithelial cells, and neuron cells (Pittenger *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2009).

Both PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells expressed similar chemokines and receptors such as SLC/CCR7, SDF-1 α and CXCR4 (Bobis *et al.*, 2006 dan Sasaki *et al.*, 2008) so that these stem cells are able to migrate into damaged tissues. PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells can differentiate into cells needed for refinement of skins, such as fibroblast, keratinocytes, and endothelial cells (Abe *et al.*, 2001; Hedrick *et al.*, 2010; Medina *et al.*, 2000 dan Sasaki *et al.*, 2008).

Previous study showed that the combination of *Hematopoietic stem cells* (HSC) dan BM-MSC from human induced to mice to see the growth of bones, proved that this combination was able to cooperate in forming bone tissues and enhanced the number and diameters of blood vessels (Moioli *et al.*, 2008). Based on previous study and the ability of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells that were able to differentiate into existing skin cells, then it is necessary to conduct a study on the influence of combination of PBMC and BM-MSC on the expression of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin.

Research Methodology

Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cell (PBMC) Isolation

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) used for the research were taken from Wistar rats that were anesthetized with Xylazine and Ketamine (1:1). The blood taken (3.5 ml) from the rat tail was then added with 3.5 ml sterile PBS: the mixture of blood and sterile PBS was then added to the centrifuge tube which was filled with 3.5 ml ficoll isopaque density 0.177. The mixture was centrifuged for 30 minutes on 1600 rpm which then crated the Buffy coat. Next, the Buffy coat was added with sterile PBS 5 ml and then centrifuged for 5 minutes on 1600 rpm to separate the supernatant. This re-suspension was conducted for 2 times to take the granules which were then added with PBS; then the cells could be counted by using hemacytometer. From the result, the number of PBMC was recognized from the sample was 3×10^7 . But the PBMCs used in this research was 1×10^6 cells/ml.

Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells

Mesenchymal stem cells were derived from bone marrow of the rats. Rats BM-MSC that are used in this research were gotten from Stem Cell Laboratory, Institute of Tropical Disease (ITD) Airlangga University Surabaya. Prior to be used, the MSC in monolayer tube petridish would be separated, so the number of cells which will be used for this research can be counted. The number of BM-MSCs cells that are equal for 1 rat is 1×10^6 cells/ml.

Experimental to Animal's Burn

The Wistar rats used in this research were divided into 2 groups. Group 1 served as the control group while group 2 was treated by using the combination of BM-MSC and PBMCs scale 1:1. Burn-making on rats were applied by using method from (Paramonov D. and Cheboterev cit Shuid et al., 2008) method. Rats were anesthetized with xylazin and ketamine (ratio 1: 1), then the fur of the rats were sheared. To make a thick burn mark on the rats, the plate was heated on boiling water for 30 minutes which is then sticks to the back of the rats for 20 minutes. After the burn making procedure, the PBS was injected to the control group; while the combination of BM-MSC and PBMCs was injected into the treatment group. The burn wounds were wrapped by using tegaderm film and gauze elastomull haft; antalgin as an analgesic was also injected to the rat. On the 3rd and 7th day, the blood was taken via intracardiac to measure the growth factor of TGF- β 1 from serum and collagen type I of the tissue

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Immunohistochemistry $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin

The preparations were de-parafinisation by dipping it into xylol 3 for times; it was then rehydrated, by using xylol, which was then followed in absolute ethanol and 70% ethanol. To finish the rehydrated; we need to rinse it with distilled water. Slides were then dipped in 3% H₂O₂ and then in methanol for 5 minutes; the slides were then rinsed with distilled water and PBS for 3 times. The cleaned slides were put in anti $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin (mouse anti-rat 1:50) for 30 minutes on room temperature and then rinsed with PBS 3 times, each processes is done for 2 minutes. The daubed tissues were marked with Pap pen. Slides were then incorporated on the secondary antibody (Rabbit anti-mouse antibody biotinylated label) for 30 minutes and rinsed with PBS solution 3 times; similar with the previous procedure, the rinsed process with PBS Solution was done for 2 minutes. Put the slides into streptavidin HRP labeled for 30 minutes, then rinsed in a solution of PBS 3 times, each of them was also done for 2 minutes. Put slides into the substrate chromogen for 3-10 minutes, and rinse with a solution of PBS for 2 minutes that needs to be repeated 3 times and finally it need to be rinsed with aquadestilata. After that, the slides were put into Mayer haematoxylin for 6-15 minutes; to end the process we need to rinse the slide with running water and mounting. Microscope was used to measure the expression of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin after immunohistochemical staining.

Analysis of Data

ANOVA test and further Tukey test were applied to analyze the effect of PBMCs stem cells on the expression $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin.

Results

Immunohistochemical examination on the expression of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin performed on day 14 by counting number of cells that gave a positive reaction to anti- $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin. Number of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin expression performed by counting expressed cells divided by the total number of cells/15625 μm^2 on rats burn tissues. Skin tissues were examined in each group, then counted cells-integrin expressed divided by visible total cells. The average percentage of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin expression can be seen in table 1 and figure 1.

It can be seen in table 1 and figure 1 that on day 14, the average percentage of cells that expression $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin in burn tissues of rats treated with the combination of PBMC

and BM-MSC stem cells was 3.297% higher than control namely 2.340%. The results statistically showed significant difference ($p=0.037$). Analyzing the IHC, it shows that the expression of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin on the control group only has a shadow of a thin brownish color (400 x). While the treatment group showed the positive dark brown can be seen in Fig. 2

Table 1. Average percentage of cells that gave a positive reaction on $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin in burn tissues in control and treated group on day 14.

Group	Average expression of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin (%) on day 14	P
control	2.340 ± 0.329	0.037
Treated	3.297 ± 1.039	

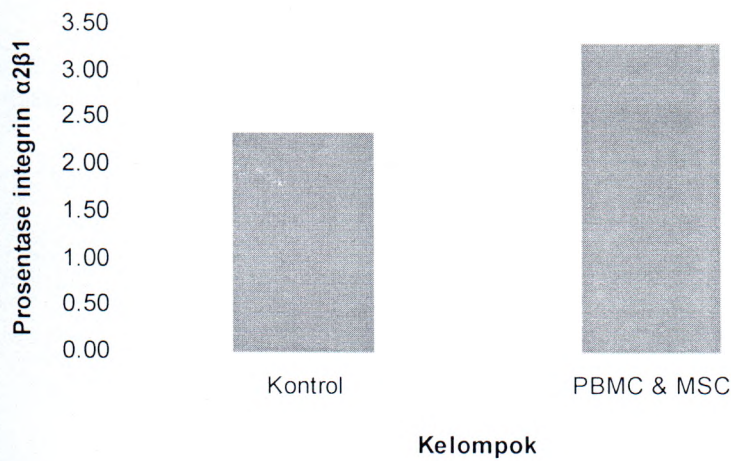


Figure 1. average level of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin expression in burn tissues in control and treated group on day 14.

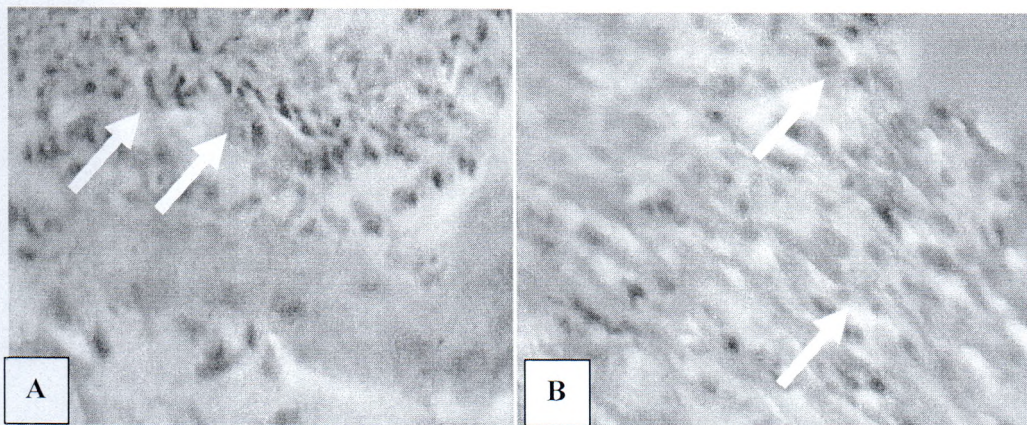


Figure 2. Staining IHC of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin on Staining Positive Control Group (A) and Combine BM-MSC and PBMCs (B)

Discussion

$\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin is an adhesion molecule that plays a role in binding cells and extracellular matrix. As an attachment of cells, integrin will connect to extracellular matrix such as collagen, laminine, and fibronectin that will cause migration of cells.

The measurement of percentage of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin in burn tissues showed increased in group treated with combination of PBMC and BM-MSc compared to control, statistically showed significant difference compared to control. The increase of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin expression caused by PBMC containing hematopoietic cells consisting of monocytes, fibrocytes and *endothelial progenitor cell* (EPC) which will express the integrins. The result of this study also supported by other studies that the expression of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin increase in wound because of its function in migration and proliferation of inflammatory cells, keratinocytes and fibroblast.

In platelet, $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin will interact with type I collagen, so that the next binding of platelet will regulate platelet aggregation to secrete growth factors that play a role in inflammation phase of wound healing. $\alpha 2\beta 1$ Integrin is essential for keratinocytes to bind to collagen, so that $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin can give transduction signal to give phenotype to initiate cells migration (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). Both stem cells also expressing chemokine with the same receptors namely SLC/CCR7, SDF-1 α and CXCR4 (Bobis *et al.*, 2006 and Sasaki *et al.*, 2008) hence, with the increase of integrin, migration of both stem cells might be accelerated.

This situation showed that both tested-stem cells provide synergistic effect on wound healing and can be seen that BM-MSc did not affect the effect of PBMC.

The result of this study also supported by previous study showed that the combination of *Hematopoietic stem cells* (HSC) dan BM-MSc from human induced to mice to see the growth of bones, proved that this combination was able to cooperate in forming bone tissues and enhanced the number and diameters of blood vessels (Moioli *et al.*, 2008). The same result also gained the increase of integrin expression in immunohistochemical examination in burn treated with combination of PBMC and BM-MSc.

The increase of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin in burn tissues treated with combination of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells may be due to the $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin expression needed to regulate migration and proliferation of platelet and keratinocytes cells (Pilcher *et al.*, 1997).

In wound healing phase, particularly in reepithelization phase, many types of integrins were founded on the keratinocytes surfaces such as $\alpha 2\beta 1$, $\alpha 3\beta 1$, $\alpha 6\beta 4$, $\alpha v\beta 6$, dan $\alpha 5\beta 1$. Integrin on this keratinocytes plays a role in migration of keratinocyte cells from the edge of wound and proliferation of keratinocyte so that reepithelization occurred (Larjava *et al.*, 1993 and Watt, 2002).

Integrin with its function is able to cooperate with growth factors by means of activating and regulating growth factor signal in order to support proliferation phase in wound healing (Steffensen *et al.*, 2001) for example TGF- β (Reynold *et al.*, 2005). Others role of integrin are in apoptosis, angiogenesis and neural function (Tsuji, 2004).

Result of study on influence of combination of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells suggested that this combination was able to accelerate wound healing in rats by increasing percentage of $\alpha 2\beta 1$ integrin . Even so, the influence of this combination stem cells on other adhesion molecules has not yet been carried out. For that reason, further investigation on the influence of combination of PBMC and BM-MSC stem cells on adhesion molecules such as ICAM, VCAM and selectin needs to be developed..

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