Author’s response to reviews

Title: Islet transplantation improved penile tissue fibrosis in a rat model of type 1 diabetes

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Gustavo J Santos (Reviewer 2): After the last Revision, the authors fixed some, but not all, problems observed in the figures/legends.

The Legend still presenting problems and the information should be more deep. For exemple, the Molecular Weight of the proteins in figure 4 should be shown.

Moreover, in figure 4 the authors show the Western Blot for TGF-beta1 and CTGF and the same internal control for both protein. Looking for the MW of the proteins it is odd that they got both protein in the same gel. Moreover, TGF-beta 1 band, depend of its activity, may present different MW.
So, regarding the Figure 4, the authors should answer:

1 - Did TGF-beta 1 and CTGF were done in the same gel?

2 - Which TGF-beta (what is the MW) 1 did the authors analysed?

3 - They should list the antibody that they used (for WB, IHC and IF).

Response: First, thank the reviewer for your professional advice. I have shown the molecular weight of the proteins in figure 4. TGF-beta 1 and CTGF were really done in the same gel. The MW of the TGF-beta 1 is 44KD and the MW of the CTGF is 38KD. According to their molecular weight differences, we divided the same PVDF film into different cut strips and incubated them with anti-TGF-beta 1 and anti-CTGF respectively. Here is a list of the antibodies we used: α-SMA (Abcam, 1:200) and caspase-3 (CST, 1:500) for IHC. TGF-β1 (CST, 1:1000), p-Smad2 (Abcam, 1:500), Smad2 (Abcam, 1:500) and CTGF (CST, 1:1000) for WB and we have added this information separately on lines 177-178 and 187-188 of the 8 page of the article.