Author’s response to reviews

Title: The impact of collagen membranes on 3D gingival fibroblast toroids

Authors:

Klara Janjić (klara.janjic@meduniwien.ac.at)
Barbara Cvikl (barbara.cvikl@meduniwien.ac.at)
Barbara Schädl (barbara.schaedl@meduniwien.ac.at)
Andreas Moritz (andreas.moritz@meduniwien.ac.at)
Hermann Agis (hermann.agis@meduniwien.ac.at)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Submission of the R2 manuscript “The impact of collagen membranes on 3D gingival fibroblast toroids”

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Please find enclosed the second revision of our manuscript entitled “The impact of collagen membranes on 3D gingival fibroblast toroids” by the authors Klara Janjić, Barbara Cvikl, Barbara Schädl, Andreas Moritz and Hermann Agis. All authors have approved of the submission of this manuscript version. We have no conflict of interest to declare.

The manuscript has been amended to the comments of the editor; a point-by-point response can be found below. We kindly request the evaluation of our revised manuscript for publication in the renowned BMC Oral Health.

Sincerely yours,

Hermann Agis, PhD, on behalf of the authors

Point-by-point response letter

Editor
Comment 1 of the editor: “Consent to participate: In the Ethical approval and consent to participate statement of the Declarations, please confirm whether informed consent was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your manuscript. Please specify whether the consent was written or verbal. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.”

Response to comment 1 of the editor: The required information was added to the Methods section, page 4 and Declarations section, page 11.

Comment 2 of the editor: “Role of funding bodies: In the Funding statement of the Declarations, please describe the role of the funding bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.”

Response to comment 2 of the editor: A statement describing the role of the funding body in more detail has been added to the appropriate Declarations section, page 12.

Comment 3 of the editor: “Authors’ contributions – all authors read and approved: Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.”

Response to comment 3 of the editor: The statement on author approval has been added to the Declarations section, page 12.

Comment 4 of the editor: “Competing interests: As a member of the editorial board (Associate Editor) of this journal, in order to ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations.”

Response to comment 4 of the editor: We now declare that the corresponding author of this manuscript is an associate editor of the journal in the Declarations section, page 12.

Comment 5 of the editor: “Table formatting: Please provide a table title, key and column headings for Table 1.”

Response to comment 5 of the editor: The requested title and headings have been added to table on page 15.

Comment 6 of the editor: “Figures: In the figure legend list, please provide figure titles.”

Response to comment 6 of the editor: We now added a title to each figure in the figure legends on page 16.
Comment 7 of the editor: “Clean manuscript: At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response to comment 7 of the editor: After all recommended changes have been made in the manuscript we now submit a clean version of the manuscript were the changes have not been marked.

Reviewer 2

Comment of reviewer 2: The author present evidence that gingival fibroblasts suspended in 3D collagen spheroids and toroids can survive for 3 days. The author conclude that these 3D toroid cell culture systems are suitable for use as a "simple assay to study attachment behavior to various biomaterials." This manuscript will make an interesting addition to the field of 3D in vitro cell modeling, and is worthy of publication.

Response: We thank reviewer 2 for his valuable comments that improved our manuscript.