



Insight of Therapeutic Cloning

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DESCRIPTION

Therapeutic cloning, whereby patient-specific embryonic stem cells are resulting from cloned blastocysts, grips great promise for treatment of several human diseases. Embryonic stem cells have been produced from cloned blastocysts in mice and cattle but not yet in humans. The generation of histocompatible tissue by nuclear transplantation has been established in a bovine model. Despite expression of various mitochondrial DNA haplotypes, no rejection responses were detected when cloned renal cells were retransferred to the donor animal. Skin implants between bovine clones with different mitochondrial haplotypes were accepted long term whereas non-cloned tissues were rejected [1]. The viability of therapeutic cloning has also been shown in mice, where correction of a genetic fault by cell therapy was verified. Mouse ES cells derived from cloned or fertilized blastocysts were equal with regard to their transcriptional profile and distinction potential and thus have similar value as stem cells. The first preimplantation human embryos were formed from adult fibroblast nuclei; these provided only stumpy blastocyst rates. Pre-selection based on the morphology of the main polar body, the perivitelline space, and cytoplasm granula distribution resulted in improved blastocyst production [2]. This may be helpful in the production of human SCNT embryos for healing cloning. The use of animal oocytes for reprogramming human somatic cells gives the same high level of blastocyst expansion as human-human SCNT. Nevertheless, the form of genomic reprogramming is pointedly different between interspecies cloned embryos and intraspecies cloned embryos. Numerous genes were aberrantly expressed in the interspecies cloned embryos, rising doubts about the knowledge of using animal oocytes to overcome the shortage of human eggs.

Cells replicated from a patient have the benefit that they are accepted by that patient without enduring immune suppression. The invention of customized ES cells will be priceless in human medicine for the treatment of degenerative diseases because no immunosuppressive treatment is mandatory [3]. The perception

of “therapeutic cloning” is attractive but application in human medicine is still in its starting stage. Present knowledge advises that reprogramming of genes expressed in the inner cell mass, from which ES cells are formed, is rather effectual. Faults in the extra embryonic lineage are the main cause of the low success rate of reproductive cloning, but these would not disturb derivation of ES cells. However, key practical problems include the partial obtainability of human oocytes for reprogramming of the donor cells, the lower competence of somatic nuclear transfer, the effort of implanting genetic modifications, the augmented risk of oncogenic transformation, and the epigenetic uncertainty of embryos and cells derived from somatic cloning. Replacements to nuclear transfer for reprogramming of somatic cell nuclei for the production of autologous healing cells are being discovered. In humans, only initial data are exist on therapeutic cloning. The papers on human ES cell separation and cloning were retracted after detection of significant fraud. The long-term goal of therapeutic cloning is to give data on ES cell progress and differentiation, which may make it possible to stimulate propagation and variation of endogenous stem cells and compensation of sick stocks [4].

The last four to five decades of progress in aided generative technologies that led to the birth of a whole novel idea of reproductive cloning and therapeutic cloning today have given a different perception to animal industry in overall and human health in particular. These advances have taught us that completely differentiated cells can be returned back to their ground state (pluripotent) under suitable conditions. The innovators in this field were Briggs and King, and Gurdon, who established the apparent reversibility of the differentiated state of simpler creatures such as the frog *Rana pipiens* and further in mammals such as in the replicating of ‘Dolly’ the sheep from somatic [5]. This procedure of reprogramming somatic cells to their pluripotent state by inoculating into an egg is known as Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT). This procedure is technically tough and inefficient and usually produces offspring of less than best quality when used for generative cloning.

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CONCLUSION

The finding by Yamanaka of the Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPSC) technique for reprogramming somatic cells by using clear transcription factors revitalized this field. The iPSCs have been produced from a broad range of somatic cell types and species, differentiated into different seemingly useful cell types, and used to study basic biology and model human diseases. These studies have opened up new possibilities that iPSCs could be potentially developed as unlimited and patient-matched cell sources for cell-based therapy or drug discovery and disease demonstrating. There is a great development in this field to upsurge the efficiency of reprogramming and to produce the harmless iPSCs without gene additions for their transition to therapeutics for humans.

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