

CALL FOR PAPERS

At the beginning of the 21st century, the clinical application of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) was considered a breakthrough in the stimulation and acceleration of bone and soft tissue healing. Since then, its use has been predominant in maxillofacial surgery as an autologous additive to bone grafts and soft tissue transplants, although other indications such as chronic diabetic ulcers and some standard orthopedic procedures have been suggested. Most exciting for orthopaedic surgeons has been the publication of successful treatment of arthritis-related knee pain by intraarticular injection. This special issue aims to clarify the rationale behind the clinical application of PRP by comprising new data on this topic.

As platelet concentrates can be prepared from whole blood within a short time using relatively simple methods, they have the potential to be an immunogenically inert additive to promote rapid healing and tissue regeneration.

Although the general concept seems plausible, controversy remains about whether PRP and other platelet preparations meet the high expectations set by the clinical demands. For the practitioner, it appears very difficult to obtain information on the actions and the possible risks of using platelet concentrates.

We want to muster facts and results of scientific effort that illucidate mechanisms that can explain effects that were proposed for platelet concentrates including less well known components from bone morphogenic proteins over immune modulating agents to antimicrobial peptides. Most recently, special attention has been drawn to the leucocyte content of platelet preparations and its relevance for proliferative actions for cartilage repair; therefore insights into this aspect of platelet concentrate action will also be published.

This special issue may bring some light into a topic that may be of high clinical relevance for the clinically orientated physician as well as for basic scientists.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Role of leukocytes in platelet concentrates for proliferation, immune modulation, and infection
- ▶ Bone morphogenic proteins
- ▶ Antibacterial action
- ▶ Bone healing
- ▶ Platelet preparations and cartilage repair especially in combination with chondrocyte transplantation
- ▶ Tendon healing

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