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# Stem Cell Labeling and Tracking in a Mouse Brain Stroke Model Using Multimodal Glycol Chitosan Nanoparticles

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## **Stem Cell Labeling and Tracking**



Nanotechnology-combined stem cell labeling and tracking technologies are allowing to dynamic evaluation of proliferation, migration and *in vivo* fate of transplanted cells.



#### Magnetic Nanoparticle-encapsulated Multi-modal Glycol Chitosan Nanoparticle (MMCNs)



Size distribution and morphology of MMCNs



Cy5.5
 Iron oxide nanoparticle
 Self-assembled nanoparticles in aqueous condition



• In vitro NIRF, MR phantom images of MMCNs



# **Metabolic Glycoengineering Based Stem Cell Labeling**

Metabolic glycoengineering



Bioorthogonal click reaction



Azide generation analysis



• Stem cell labeling analysis (hAD-MSCs)





# In Vitro Toxicity And Differentiation

In vitro toxicity and differentiation assessment of MMCNs 20-labeled hAD-MSCs showed that metabolic glycoengineering-based cell labeling method could effectively label hAD-MSCs without toxicity and phenotype change.

Toxicity and proliferation assay



Differentiation of hAD-MSCs





# In vivo Stem Cell Tracking Using NIRF/MR Imaging

Photothrombotic stroke model



• Ex vivo NIRF imaging (Day 14)



(\* Stroke lesion, \* Implantation site)

- NIRF imaging (\* Stroke lesion, \* Implantation site)
  Day 1
  Day 7
  Day 14
  Day 14
  Day 1
  Day 7
  Day 14
  Day 14
- MR imaging (\* Stroke lesion, \* Implantation site)





### **Ex Vivo Stem Cell Tracking**

MMCNs 20-labeled hAD-MSCs were successfully observed in a stroke lesion as well as implantation site without false signals by phagocytosis of macrophages.



HNA: Human nuclei (\* Stroke lesion, \* Implantation site) F4/80: Macrophage (\* Stroke lesion, Implantation site)



#### Conclusions

We successfully generated azide groups on the surface of hAD-MSCs via metabolic glycoengineering. And these azide groups were chemically labeled with MMCNs 20 via bioorthogonal click chemistry.

MMCNs 20 and metabolic glycoengineering-based cell labeling method could effectively label hAD-MSCs without toxicity and phenotype change.

Finally, we implanted MMCNs 20-labeled hAD-MSCs in the brain of mouse PTS model and successfully tracked MMCNs 20-labeled hAD-MSCs by dual-NIRF and  $T_2$ -weighted MR imaging for 14 days.



#### Macromolecular Imaging Lab in KIST



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