

November 29, 2018

**Olympus-RMS Develops Cultured Chondrocyte Implantation Therapy
—Expected to Simplify Treatment of Knee Cartilage Defects—**

Olympus-RMS Corporation, a joint venture between Olympus Corporation and SEWON CELLONTECH Corporation of South Korea, announced today that it has developed a Cultured Chondrocyte Implantation (CCI) Kit that is expected to vastly simplify cartilage implants and minimize the burden of treatment on patients. Clinical trials are set to commence in Japan.

The CCI Kit is prepared by harvesting small normal cartilage fragment from the patient and culturing chondrocytes from that cartilage fragment. The cultured chondrocytes are implanted in the damaged cartilage defect using a biological tissue adhesive (fibrin glue) produced by KM Biologics Co., Ltd., a development partner of Olympus RMS.

Autologous chondrocyte implantation has gained attention in recent years as a method of repairing cartilage damage by the tissue similar to the original cartilage. The treatment is already performed at a number of healthcare facilities in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Damaged joint cartilage can wear away with increased friction, commonly resulting in symptoms that include pain and difficulty moving joints. Once injured, cartilage tissue does not heal on its own, so it is treated using methods that include bone marrow stimulation¹ and osteochondral transplantation². These treatments are widely used, but they involve difficult techniques for significant area of cartilage loss and do not eliminate the potential for further cartilage degeneration for a long-term period.

Through these clinical trials and related initiatives, Olympus RMS will continue to advance its development of patient-friendly regenerative medical technologies.

1 A treatment that involves making perforations in the subchondral bone to introduce bone marrow cells into the cartilage defect and promote cartilage regeneration.

2 A treatment that involves transplanting a cylinder of cartilage and bone harvested from a different site into the defective portion of cartilage.

Overview of clinical trial

Title of study: An exploratory clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the CCI Kit in patients with knee joint cartilage defects.

Conditions: Traumatic cartilage defect of the knee joint and osteochondritis dissecans.

Trial period: Evaluation at postoperative week 65. Two-year follow-up starting at postoperative week 65.

Overview of Olympus RMS

Established: December 2008

Shareholders: Olympus Corporation and Sewon Cellontech Corporation (based in South Korea)

Location: 4th Floor, NTB Hachioji Building, Myojin-cho 3-1-7, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo

Main activities: Development of regenerative medical technology including cultured chondrocyte implantation technology

URL: <https://www.olympus-rms.co.jp/>

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