



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

## ARCHIVIO ISTITUZIONALE DELLA RICERCA

### Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna Archivio istituzionale della ricerca

Stem cells from foetal adnexa and fluid in domestic animals: An update on their features and clinical application

This is the final peer-reviewed author's accepted manuscript (postprint) of the following publication:

*Published Version:*

Iacono, E., Rossi, B., Merlo, B. (2015). Stem cells from foetal adnexa and fluid in domestic animals: An update on their features and clinical application. *REPRODUCTION IN DOMESTIC ANIMALS*, 50(3), 353-364 [10.1111/rda.12499].

*Availability:*

This version is available at: <https://hdl.handle.net/11585/525148> since: 2019-07-15

*Published:*

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1111/rda.12499>

*Terms of use:*

Some rights reserved. The terms and conditions for the reuse of this version of the manuscript are specified in the publishing policy. For all terms of use and more information see the publisher's website.

This item was downloaded from IRIS Università di Bologna (<https://cris.unibo.it/>).  
When citing, please refer to the published version.

(Article begins on next page)

1

2 This is the peer reviewed version of the following article:

3 **Stem cells from foetal adnexa and fluid in domestic animals: an update on**  
4 **their features and clinical application.**

5 which has been published in final form at [10.1111/rda.12499](https://doi.org/10.1111/rda.12499).

6 This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with  
7 Wiley Terms and Conditions for Use of Self-Archived Versions.

8

9

10 Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences, University of Bologna, Ozzano Emilia (Bo),  
11 Italy

12

13 **Stem cells from foetal adnexa and fluid in domestic animals: an update on their features**  
14 **and clinical application.**

15

16 **Running Title:** MSCs from foetal adnexa in domestic animals

17

18 Eleonora Iacono\*, DVM, PhD, Professor

19 Barbara Rossi, Bsc, PhD student

20 Barbara Merlo, DVM, PhD, ECAR Diplomate, Professor

21

22 \*Corresponding Author: Eleonora Iacono, Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences,  
23 University of Bologna, via Tolara di Sopra 50, 40064, Ozzano Emilia (Bo), Italy.

24 Phone number: +39-051-2097567

25 e-mail: [eleonora.iacono2@unibo.it](mailto:eleonora.iacono2@unibo.it)

26

27 **Summary**

28 Over the past decade stem cell research has emerged as an area of major interest for its  
29 potential in regenerative medicine applications. This is in constant need of new cell sources to  
30 conceive regenerative medicine approaches for diseases that are still without therapy.  
31 Scientists drew the attention toward alternative sources such as foetal adnexa and fluid, since  
32 these sources possess many advantages: first of all, cells can be extracted from discarded  
33 foetal material and it is noninvasive for the patient and inexpensive, secondly abundant stem  
34 cells can be obtained and finally, these stem cell sources are free from ethical considerations.  
35 Cells derived from foetal adnexa and fluid preserve some of the characteristics of the  
36 primitive embryonic layers from which they originate. Many studies have demonstrated the  
37 differentiation potential in vitro and in vivo toward mesenchymal and non-mesenchymal cell  
38 types; in addition the immune-modulatory properties make these cells a good candidate for  
39 allo- and xenotransplantation. Naturally occurring diseases in domestic animals can be more  
40 ideal as disease model of human genetic and acquired diseases and could help to define the  
41 potential therapeutic use efficiency and safety of stem cells therapies. This review offers an  
42 update on the state of the art of characterization of domestic animals MSCs derived from  
43 foetal adnexa and fluid and on the latest findings in pre-clinical or clinical setting of the stem  
44 cell populations isolated from these sources.

45 **Key words:** Amniotic fluid, Amniotic Membrane, Umbilical cord blood, Wharton's Jelly,  
46 Mesenchymal Stem Cells

47

## 48 **Introduction**

49

50 A stem cell is an undifferentiated cell capable of differentiating into specialized cells and to  
51 originate other stem cells. In mammals, there are three types of stem cells (SCs): embryonic  
52 stem cells (ESCs), foetal stem cells, and adult stem cells. ESCs derive from the inner cell  
53 mass (ICM) of a blastocyst. They are pluripotent but highly tumorigenic after transplantation.  
54 Foetal stem cells are distinguished into two types: foetal proper stem cells (from the tissue of  
55 the fetus), and extra-embryonic foetal stem cells (from extra-embryonic membranes). Adult  
56 SCs are multipotent cells, designate to tissue repairing, and they are present in almost all adult  
57 tissues.

58 Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) are a population of multipotent stem cells that meet the  
59 following criteria: 1) plastic-adherence when maintained in standard culture conditions; 2)  
60 expression of CD105, CD73 and CD90, and lack of CD45, CD34, CD14 or CD11b, CD79 $\alpha$   
61 or CD19 and HLA-DR surface molecules; 3) differentiation to osteoblasts, adipocytes and  
62 chondroblasts in vitro (Dominici et al. 2006).

63 Since these properties, MSCs offer a great chance for cell-based therapies and tissue  
64 engineering applications. The effective management of companion animals, such as dog, cat  
65 or horse, requires sophisticated new treatments and preventive strategies. This, combined with  
66 their role as models for human diseases, led to an increase in the number of research focused  
67 on isolation and clinical use of MSCs in these animals.

68 Bone marrow (BM) is the common source of autologous MSCs for clinical applications in  
69 veterinary medicine. Alternatively, adipose tissue-derived MSCs can be used, since they have  
70 a higher proliferation potential. Anyway, for both sources, an invasive procedure is required  
71 and there is a large variability in the cell yield related to the donor (Colleoni et al. 2009).

72 Placental tissues and foetal fluids represent a source of cells for regenerative medicine, and  
73 are readily available and easily procured without invasive procedures. MSCs from foetal

74 fluids and adnexa are defined as an intermediate between ESCs and adult SCs, due to the  
75 preservation of some characteristics typical of the primitive native layers. Among foetal  
76 adnexal tissues, the major sources of MSCs are amnion, amniotic fluid, umbilical cord and  
77 umbilical cord blood. These cells can be obtained in large numbers without risks for donors  
78 and cryopreserved for future use in regenerative veterinary medicine.

79 The markers required for defining a MSC were determined for human cells, and the lack of  
80 specific antibodies for different animal species lead to a great variability of approaches and  
81 results for molecular characterization of animal MSCs. The aim of this review is to provide an  
82 overview of the advances in characterization and clinical applications of domestic animal  
83 MSCs derived from foetal adnexa and fluid.

84

#### 85 **Developmental biology of foetal adnexa and amniotic fluid**

86

87 Extra-embryonic or foetal membranes are structures that develop from the zygote, do not  
88 form part of the embryo itself, and are of functional importance only in embryonic life. At the  
89 end of cleavage, the blastocysts, enclosed within the zona pellucida, consists of an ICM and a  
90 trophoblastic layer. During the second week of development, hatched blastocyst leaves its  
91 confined space and elongates. In particular this process involves the trophoblast, and,  
92 partially, the inner endodermal lining. The head and tail of growing embryo, progressively,  
93 push deeper in to the trophoblast, which become lined by a layer of somatic mesoderm  
94 forming the extra-embryonic somatopleure (McGeady et al. 2006). The outer somatopleure  
95 membrane forms chorion, while the inner somatopleure membrane, attached to the embryos at  
96 umbilicus, forms amnion. Due to its early development, amnion could be a reservoir of  
97 pluripotent stem cells, derived from the contiguity of embryonic epiblast, even at full term  
98 pregnancy. Amnion is a thin, tough, membranous and fluid-filled sac which surrounds and  
99 protects the embryo and then the foetus (McGeady et al. 2006). When first formed, it is in

100 contact with the embryo's body, but, after few weeks of pregnancy, fluid begins to  
101 accumulate within it. This fluid increases in quantity relatively rapidly up to mid-pregnancy  
102 and then gradually decreases. In early pregnancy, the composition of amniotic fluid and  
103 plasma are similar and may be considered a dialysate of the maternal or foetal extracellular  
104 fluid. Later in gestation, when the foetus urethra becomes patent, foetal urine passes in  
105 amniotic cavity. Amniotic fluid (AF) contains less than 2% of solids, consisting of urea and  
106 other extractives, inorganic salts, a small amount of protein, a trace of sugar and multiple cell  
107 types from embryonic and extra-embryonic tissues (Gosden 1983).

108 With the progress of gestation, the embryo sinks into the amniotic membrane (AM), which  
109 wraps the mesoblastic axis in which allantois and umbilical vessels developed, giving rise to  
110 the umbilical cord (UC) (Barone 1994). Based on structural and functional studies, at least  
111 four distinctive zones are now recognized in the UC: surface amniotic epithelium,  
112 subamniotic stroma, perivascular stroma, vessels. All together these structures are called  
113 umbilical cord matrix (UCM). The connective tissue included between subamnion and  
114 perivascular regions consists of mucous, mesenchymal connective tissue, and it is called  
115 Wharton's jelly (WJ). It contains a very low number of cells and a high amount of  
116 extracellular matrix components, such as collagen, hyaluronic acid and proteoglycans  
117 (Sobolewski et al. 1997). These substances make this tissue highly hydrated and resistant to  
118 extension and compression evoked by foetal movements and uterine contraction. Stromal  
119 cells of WJ, previously described as myofibroblast (Takechi et al. 1993), have properties of  
120 potentially multipotent SCs (Mitchell et al. 2003).

121

## 122 **Amniotic membrane**

123

124 After mechanically separating amnion from allantois, as in human medicine, it is possible to  
125 harvest two cellular types, amniotic epithelial (AECs) or mesenchymal cells (AMSCs). AECs

126 have a typical polygonal morphology while AMSCs are fibroblast-like. Both AMSCs and  
127 AECs from different species have been investigated for proliferative potential, differentiation  
128 ability, and phenotypically characterized.

129 AECs showed similar patterns to AMSCs in the sheep (Gloria et al. 2010; Mauro et al. 2010;  
130 Mattioli et al. 2012), but the latter were superior in promoting interbody fusion in induced  
131 anterior cervical discectomy after allogenic implantation combined with bone grafts  
132 (Goldschlager et al. 2011). AECs phenotype, methylation status, immunomodulatory and  
133 stemness properties are affected by gestational age (Barboni et al. 2014). In the horse (Lange-  
134 Consiglio et al. 2012) and in the bovine (Corradetti et al., 2013), AECs showed a lower  
135 number of doublings compared to AMSCs but the same phenotype and plasticity at  
136 differentiation. Feline AECs were fully characterized and were able to differentiate into  
137 adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic and neurogenic lineages (Rutigliano et al. 2013).  
138 Porcine AECs were successfully used for construction of tissue-engineered cornea (Luo et al.  
139 2013).

140 Focusing on MSCs, they express pluripotency and mesenchymal markers, have a multi-  
141 lineage differentiation potential and possess a privileged immunogenic status related to the  
142 low expression or even absent levels of MHC I and MHC II (data are summarized in Table 1).  
143 AMSCs were capable of inhibiting peripheral blood mononuclear cell proliferation after  
144 allogenic stimulation either when co-cultured in cell-to-cell contact or when separated by a  
145 transwell membrane (Lange-Consiglio et al. 2013b). Furthermore, it was demonstrated that  
146 AMSCs possess nonteratogenicity 4 weeks post injection into immunodeficient mice (Vidane  
147 et al. 2014).

148 Comparing results from different species, among pluripotency markers, a difference was  
149 found for NANOG expression. While in the horse (Violini et al. 2012) and buffalo (Dev et al.  
150 2012; Mann et al. 2013) AMSCs expressed NANOG at RT-PCR, canine AMSCs were



151 negative (Filioli Uranio et al. 2011, 2014). Anyway, Park et al. (2012) could quantified it in  
152 canine AMSCs using qPCR.

153 Mesenchymal markers were expressed in all species while haematopoietic markers were not  
154 found. In the horse, CD34 was not expressed in early stages of culture, but began to be  
155 expressed at later passages (P5) (Lange-Consiglio et al. 2013a). By the way, the consensus  
156 about absence of CD34 expression on MSCs has been challenged. The CD34 expression  
157 status in haematopoietic and MSCs appears to depend on the environment, and can change  
158 from positive to negative, and vice versa (Lin et al. 2012).

159 Karyotype of cultured AMSCs was confirmed to be stable in the dog (Filioli Uranio et al.  
160 2011, 2014), buffalo (Dev et al. 2012c; Mann et al. 2013) and horse (Seo et al. 2013). In the  
161 dog, a high telomerase activity was found (Filioli Uranio et al. 2011). Telomerase activity and  
162 telomere maintenance characterize all cells with self-renewal capability, such as ESCs, MSCs,  
163 and most cancer cells (Colosimo et al. 2013a).

164

## 165 **Amniotic fluid**

166 In the veterinary field, as in the human, AF contains a heterogeneous population of cells:  
167 cuboidal epitheloid (E-cells), round (R-cells) and spindle-shaped fibroblastic (F-cells) cells.  
168 E-cells probably derive from foetal skin and urine and they are lost during the first passages  
169 of culture; R-cells are supposed to originate from foetal membranes and trophoblasts; F-cells  
170 are generated from mesenchymal tissues and are supposed to be the MSC population of the  
171 AF (Klemmt et al. 2011). In domestic animals, the prevalent cell population that persist  
172 during culture is the F-type, except for one study on porcine AFMSCs (Sartore et al. 2005)  
173 and one on bovine AFMSCs (Rossi et al. 2014), where both F-cells and R-cells persist  
174 through passages. Other groups, that studied bovine AF cell populations (Corradetti et al.  
175 2013; Gao et al. 2014; da Cunha et al. 2014), found R-cells only at the very first passages,  
176 maybe due to the addition in the culture medium of growth factors like EGF and bFGF.

177 AFMSCs generally express MSC markers and mesodermal markers like Vimentin and  $\alpha$ -  
178 Smooth Muscle Actin ( $\alpha$ SMA) and are negative for haematopoietic markers (Table 2). In the  
179 horse, expression of CD73 is controversy. Positivity was found only for AD2 clone, while  
180 clone 5F/B9 did not cross-react (Gulati et al. 2013). Anyway, for AD2 clone cross-reactivity  
181 was not found in equine (Iacono et al. 2012a) and also in feline (Iacono et al. 2012b) and  
182 bovine AFMSCs (Rossi et al. 2014). Like AMSCs, also AFMSCs express pluripotency  
183 markers and only in one study in the bovine (Rossi et al. 2014) expression of OCT4, NANOG  
184 and SOX2 was not found.

185 Different authors verified that AFMSCs show telomerase activity and that telomere length is  
186 not affected by culture conditions (Filioli Uranio et al. 2011; Colosimo et al. 2013a), such as  
187 karyotype (Filioli Uranio et al. 2011; Dev et al. 2012a; Dev et al. 2012b; Colosimo et al.  
188 2013b; Weber et al. 2013; da Cunha et al. 2014).

189

### 190 **Umbilical cord blood (UCB)**

191

192 In human medicine, the use of UCB as a source of MSCs can be traced back to 2000: in this  
193 year Erices et al. showed that UCB cells were able to give rise to two types of adherent cells,  
194 one of which expressed antigens typical of MSCs. Also in veterinary medicine cells with  
195 characteristics similar to human UCBMSCs have been isolated in different species (Table 3).  
196 Usually, an isolation rate of fibroblast-like, spindle-shaped cells, similar to human, between  
197 50 and 70% is reported (Koch et al. 2007; Iacono et al. 2012a; Mohanty et al. 2014), except  
198 for feline UCB where cells at P0 comprised a heterogeneous population, including fibroblast-  
199 like, spindle-shaped, and small round morphologies (Jin et al. 2008). Reported data may be  
200 due to the limited number of MSCs in UCB as well as suboptimal isolation and expansion  
201 conditions. In horses was demonstrated that samples cultured at 5% O<sub>2</sub> proliferated rapidly to  
202 the desired cell number. The effect of mild hypoxia may be attributable in part to the

203 induction of signaling pathways but also to a decrease in survival of contaminating leukocytes  
204 in UCB, thus increasing the isolation rate up to 80% (Schuh et al. 2009). Furthermore,  
205 particularly in equine species, the UCB recovered volume is often low, because of a wide  
206 spread belief that the mare continues to pass blood to the foal through the umbilicus  
207 immediately post foaling (Rossdale 1958). However, using Doppler ultrasound, Doarn (1985)  
208 showed that blood flow through the cord ceases within few minutes following delivery. All  
209 authors reported that UCBMSCs cells from domestic animals sources were positive for CD44  
210 (Table 3), an antigen expressed by a variety of cells types, not part of the ISCT MSC  
211 definition (Dominici et al. 2006). Given its constant expression and considering the difficulty  
212 in UCBMSCs isolation, sorting of CD44+ cells prior to plastic adherence isolation could lead  
213 to more homogenous populations in domestic animals (Paebst et al. 2014). A variability of the  
214 other MSCs marker expression exists particularly for CD73. Similarly to AFMSCs, in the  
215 horse only Mohanty et al. (2014) showed that UCBMSCs expressed CD73, both with RT-  
216 PCR and flow cytometry. Authors explained their finding with the use of different CD73  
217 clones (5F/B9), compared with a previous study reporting its negative expression (De  
218 Schauwer et al. 2012; 10fl clone). However, Mohanty's research group stated that equine  
219 AFMSCs reacted with AD2 clone, but not with 5F/B9 clone (Gulati et al. 2013), showing  
220 opposing results for the same species. Anyway, differences in the culture medium, such as the  
221 content of FBS, the timeframe of plastic-adherent culture and the cell harvesting technique  
222 could influence the cell characteristics (Paebst et al. 2014).

223 UCBMSCs from different species possess an intermediate phenotype that more closely  
224 resembles ES cells: Tra1-60, Tra1-81 and Oct4 are present (Reed et al. 2008; Seo et al. 2009;  
225 Raoufi et al. 2011; Mohanty et al. 2014), but conflicting data are reported for Nanog and Sox2  
226 (Reed et al. 2008; Mohanty et al. 2014), particularly in the horse.

227

## 228 **Umbilical Cord**

229

230 UC is routinely discarded at parturition and its extracorporeal nature facilitates isolation by  
231 eliminating the invasive and discomfort extraction procedures as well as patient risks that  
232 attend adult stem cell isolation. Most significantly, the comparatively large volume of UC and  
233 ease of physical manipulation theoretically increase the number of stem cells that can be  
234 extracted, which make it possible to get substantial number of cells in several passages  
235 without need of long term culture and extensive expansion *ex vivo*. Probably due to the  
236 possible absence of this structure at birth, because of reduction of the water and substances  
237 content towards the end of pregnancy, different authors, particularly in veterinary medicine,  
238 named interchangeably WJ or UCM. Due to this reason, in Table 4, we reported data  
239 regarding WJ and UCM MSCs together. Usually, spindle-shaped cells have been isolated;  
240 however few authors described a heterogeneous cell population (fusiform or spindle form and  
241 small round cells with large and prominent nucleus), from porcine and caprine UC,  
242 characterized by a plateau or a stationary phase (Mitchell et al. 2003; Babaei et al. 2008). In  
243 these species, such as in canine (Filioli Uranio et al. 2011) and bovine (Cardoso et al. 2012),  
244 UC cells expressed high levels of telomerase activity, and this phenomenon could explain the  
245 long term of cell culture observed by the authors. Moreover, tissue culture procedure does not  
246 alter chromosomal organization (Filioli Uranio et al. 2011; Cardoso et al. 2012; da Cunha et  
247 al. 2014). As reported above, also cell isolated from UC are negative for hematopoietic  
248 markers and express a number of antigens associated with adult MSCs (Table 4). Conflicting  
249 data are reported regarding their expression of embryonic markers. Cells from porcine,  
250 bubaline and equine UC resulted positive for pluripotency genes OCT4, NANOG, SOX2 at  
251 different culture passages (Mitchell et al. 2003; Carlin et al. 2006; Hoynowsky et al. 2007;  
252 Singh et al. 2013; Sreekumar et al. 2014). In canine, all authors agree that during *in vitro*  
253 passages cells lost OCT4 expression. However, while Lee et al. (2013a) stated that expression  
254 of NANOG and SOX2 is negatively correlated with the number of passages but is always

255 present, most recently Filioli Uranio et al. (2014) showed that NANOG gene is present only  
256 in cells recovered at late gestational age. This discrepancy is likely due to different culture  
257 conditions and to different selection of cord tissue to be processed. The immature cells that  
258 retain the ability to proliferate were located close to the amniotic surface, whereas highly  
259 differentiated, non-proliferating fibroblasts were located in closer proximity to the umbilical  
260 vessels (Nanaev et al. 1997).

261

## 262 **Clinical Applications**

263

264 Clinical application of foetal MSCs in domestic animals had an increase in the last five years.  
265 The majority of the studies are on AFMSCs, mainly used in animal-model diseases (heart,  
266 diaphragm, trachea and tendon induced injuries in different species) (Table 5). Among tissue-  
267 engineering studies in the sheep, diaphragmatic repair with a mesenchymal amniocyte-based  
268 engineered tendon led to improved structural outcomes when compared with equivalent fetal  
269 myoblast-based and acellular graft (Kunisaki et al. 2006c). Investigating the ability of  
270 AFMSCs for phenotypic conversion to vascular cells and cardiomyocytes (CM) when  
271 autotransplanted in a porcine model acute ischemic myocardium (AMI), MSCs were able to  
272 transdifferentiate to cells of vascular cell lineages but not to CM. Thus, porcine AFMSCs may  
273 require further ex vivo re-programming to be suitable for therapeutic use in AMI (Sartore et  
274 al. 2005). On the other hand, intramuscular injection of porcine AFMSCs reduced scar size  
275 and preserved heart function after induced myocardial infarction in mice (Peng et al. 2014).  
276 Only in the horse AFMSCs were used, combined with PRP (platelet rich plasma), to treat  
277 spontaneous decubitus ulcers (Iacono et al. 2012c). When comparing different treatments  
278 (aloe gel, PRP alone, MSCs+PRP), mean regression of ulcer treated with MSCs+PRP was  
279 higher than others.

280 Despites animal UC cells molecular characterization, in vitro differentiation and their  
281 immunosuppressive effects on T-cells in vitro (Cardoso et al. 2012), there are sparse  
282 literatures documenting their therapeutic applications (Table 5). Equine UCBMSCs were  
283 successfully used as allogenic therapy in race-horses with spontaneous tendon lesions (Kang  
284 et al. 2013; Van Loon et al. 2014). Canine UCBMSCs and WJMSCs were mainly applied to  
285 treat induced spinal cord injuries or bone defects. Dog WJMSCs can replace adult MSCs in  
286 clinical bone engineering procedures (Kang et al. 2012) and promote functional recovery in  
287 spinal cord injured dogs after allogenic transplantation (Ryu et al. 2012). Caprine WJMSCs  
288 allogenic (Azari et al. 2011) and xenogenic transplantation (Pratheesh et al. 2014) in a rabbit  
289 model, could be successfully performed for treating induced skin wounds. In not-treated  
290 wounds, incomplete re-epithelialization and thick granulation tissue were observed, whereas,  
291 in treated wounds intact skin with complete re-epithelialization, no inflammation, and thin  
292 granulation tissue were seen. Furthermore, in both studies, histomorphological evaluation  
293 demonstrated better epithelization, lower neovascularisation, and denser collagen fibres in  
294 treated wounds.

295 Although implantation of human AMSCs into animals resulted in successful and persistent  
296 engraftment in multiple organs and tissues (Lindenmair et al. 2012), their application in  
297 veterinary medicine are still limited (Table 5). In fact, except for a study to enhance cervical  
298 interbody fusion in an ovine model (Goldschlader et al. 2011) and histological and functional  
299 improvement after transplantation in a porcine model of chronic myocardial ischemia  
300 (Kimura et al. 2012), AMSCs were only applied in equine spontaneous tendon injuries.  
301 Allogenic transplantation resulted in a quick reduction in tendon size and ultrasonographic  
302 cross-sectional area (Lange-Consiglio et al. 2012) and the re-injury rate was lower compared  
303 to autologous BMMSCs transplantation (Lange-Consiglio et al. 2013c). The hypothesis of a  
304 paracrine mechanism of tendon repair when AMSCs are injected was confirmed in vivo;  
305 when horse tendon injuries were treated with conditioned medium, a lower rate of re-injuries

306 was observed compared to untreated animals (Lange-Consiglio et al. 2013b). AMSCs and  
307 their conditioned medium were recently considered candidates for equine uterine regenerative  
308 therapy, due to their ability to increase in vitro endometrial cell proliferation rate (Corradetti  
309 et al. 2014). So far, AMSCs are promising not only for cell-based therapies, but also for novel  
310 therapeutic biological cell-free products.

311

## 312 **Conclusion**

313 Altogether, these studies offer authoritative views on markers expression and therapeutic  
314 potential of MSCs from foetal tissues and fluids in domestic animals. These sources are easily  
315 available and relatively abundant, so MSCs may have an attraction compared to other  
316 established SCs in different clinical approaches. Anyway, more clinical applications are  
317 needed to fully understand their properties and to establish the future clinical use in the  
318 treatment of various diseases.

319

## 320 **Acknowledgment**

321 Barbara Rossi was partially funded by RFO to Professor Cesare Galli.

322

323 **References**

- 324 Azari O, Babaei H, Derakhshanfar A, Nematollahi-Mahani SN, Poursahebi R, Moshrefi M, 2011:  
325 Effects of transplanted mesenchymal stem cells isolated from Wharton's jelly of caprine umbilical  
326 cord on cutaneous wound healing; histopathological evaluation. *Vet Res Commun* **35**, 211-222.
- 327 Babaei H, Moshrefi M, Golchin M, Nematollahi-Mahani SN, 2008: Assess the pluripotency of  
328 caprine umbilical cord Wharton's jelly mesenchymal cells by RT-PCR analysis of early  
329 transcription factor Nanog. *IJVS* **3**, 57-65.
- 330 Barberini DJ, Freitas NP, Magnoni MS, Maia L, Listoni AJ, Heckler MC, Sudano MJ, Golim MA,  
331 da Cruz Landim-Alvarenga F, Amorim RM, 2014: Equine mesenchymal stem cells from bone  
332 marrow, adipose tissue and umbilical cord: immunophenotypic characterization and differentiation  
333 potential. *Stem Cell Res Ther* **21**, 25.
- 334 Barboni B, Russo V, Curini V, Martelli A, Berardinelli P, Mauro A, Mattioli M, Marchisio M,  
335 Bonassi Signoroni P, Parolini O, Colosimo A, 2014: Gestational stage affects amniotic epithelial  
336 cells phenotype, methylation status, immunomodulatory and stemness properties. *Stem Cell Rev* **10**,  
337 725-741.
- 338 Barone R, 1994: Formazione degli annessi embrionali. In: *Anatomia Comparata dei mammiferi*  
339 *domestici*, Vol. 4. Edagricole, Bologna, pp.431-437.
- 340 Berardinelli P, Valbonetti L, Muttini A, Martelli A, Peli R, Zizzari V, Nardinocchi D, Vulpiani MP,  
341 Tetè S, Barboni B, Piattelli A, Mattioli M, 2013: Role of amniotic fluid mesenchymal cells  
342 engineered on MgHA/collagen-based scaffold allotransplanted on an experimental animal study of  
343 sinus augmentation. *Clin Oral Investig* **17**, 1661-1675.
- 344 Berg L, Koch T, Heerkens T, Bessonov K, Thomsen P, Betts D, 2009: Chondrogenic potential of  
345 mesenchymal stromal cells derived from equine bone marrow and umbilical cord blood. *Vet Comp*  
346 *Orthop Traumatol* **22**, 363-370.



347 Burk J, Ribitsch I, Gittel C, Juelke H, Kasper C, Staszky C, Brehm W, 2013: Growth and  
348 differentiation characteristics of equine mesenchymal stromal cells derived from different sources.  
349 *Vet J* **195**, 98-106.

350 Byeon YE, Ryu HH, Park SS, Koyama Y, Kikuchi M, Kim WH, Kang KS, Kweon OK, 2010:  
351 Paracrine effect of canine allogenic umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stromal cells mixed  
352 with beta-tricalcium phosphate on bone regeneration in ectopic implantations. *Cytotherapy* **12**, 626-  
353 636.

354 Cardoso TC, Ferrari HF, Garcia AF, Novais JB, Silva-Frade C, Ferrarezi MC, Andrade AL,  
355 Gameiro R, 2012a: Isolation and characterization of Wharton's jelly-derived multipotent  
356 mesenchymal stromal cells obtained from bovine umbilical cord and maintained in a defined serum-  
357 free three-dimensional system. *BMC Biotechnol*, **12**, 18.

358 Cardoso TC, Novais JB, Antello TF, Silva-Frade C, Ferrarezi MC, Ferrari HF, Gameiro R, Flores  
359 EF, 2012b: Susceptibility of neuron-like cells derived from bovine Wharton's jelly to bovine  
360 herpesvirus type 5 infections. *BMC Vet Res* **8**, 242.

361 Carlin R, Davis D, Weiss M, Schultz B, Troyer D, 2006: Expression of early transcription factors  
362 Oct-4, Sox-2 and Nanog by porcine umbilical cord (PUC) matrix cells. *Reprod Biol Endocrinol* **4**,  
363 8.

364 Carrade DD, Owens SD, Galuppo LD, Vidal MA, Ferraro GL, Librach F, Buerchler S, Friedman  
365 MS, Walker NJ, Borjesson DL, 2011: Clinicopathologic findings following intra-articular injection  
366 of autologous and allogeneic placentally derived equine mesenchymal stem cells in horses.  
367 *Cytotherapy* **13**, 419-430.

368 Carrade DD, Lame MW, Kent MS, Clark KC, Walker NJ, Borjesson DL, 2012: Comparative  
369 Analysis of the Immunomodulatory Properties of Equine Adult-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells.  
370 *Cell Med* **4**, 1-11.

371 Chen J, Lu Z, Cheng D, Peng S, Wang H, 2011: Isolation and characterization of porcine amniotic  
372 fluid-derived multipotent stem cells. *PLoS One*, **6**, e19964.

373 Choi SA, Choi HS, Kim KJ, Lee DS, Lee JH, Park JY, Kim EY, Li X, Oh HY, Lee DS, Kim MK,  
374 2013: Isolation of canine mesenchymal stem cells from amniotic fluid and differentiation into  
375 hepatocyte-like cells. *In Vitro Cell Dev Biol Anim* **49**, 42-51.

376 Co C, Vickaryous MK, Koch TG, 2014: Membrane culture and reduced oxygen tension enhances  
377 matrix formation from equine cord blood mesenchymal stromal cells in vitro. *Osteoarthritis*  
378 *Cartilage* **22**, 472-480.

379 Coli A, Nocchi F, Lamanna R, Iorio M, Lapi S, Urciuoli P, Scatena F, Giannessi E, Stornelli MR,  
380 Passeri S, 2011: Isolation and characterization of equine amnion mesenchymal stem cells. *Cell Biol*  
381 *Int Rep* **18**, e00011.

382 Colleoni S, Bottani E, Tessaro I, Mari G, Merlo B, Romagnoli N, Spadari A, Galli C, Lazzari G,  
383 2009: Isolation, growth and differentiation of equine mesenchymal stem cells: effect of donor,  
384 source, amount of tissue and supplementation with basic fibroblast growth factor. *Vet Res Commun*  
385 **33**, 811-821.

386 Colosimo A, Curini V, Russo V, Mauro A, Bernabo N, Marchisio M, Alfonsi M, Muttini A,  
387 Mattioli M, Barboni B, 2013a: Characterization, GFP gene Nucleofection, and allotransplantation in  
388 injured tendons of ovine amniotic fluid-derived stem cells. *Cell Transplant* **22**, 99-117.

389 Colosimo A, Russo V, Mauro A, Curini V, Marchisio M, Bernabo N, Alfonsi M, Mattioli M,  
390 Barboni B, 2013b: Prolonged in vitro expansion partially affects phenotypic features and osteogenic  
391 potential of ovine amniotic fluid-derived mesenchymal stromal cells. *Cytherapy*, **15**, 930-950.

392 Corradetti B, Lange-Consiglio A, Barucca M, Cremonesi F, Bizzaro D, 2011: Size-sieved  
393 subpopulations of mesenchymal stem cells from intervascular and perivascular equine umbilical  
394 cord matrix. *Cell Prolif* **44**, 330-342.

395 Corradetti B, Meucci A, Bizzaro D, Cremonesi F, Lange Consiglio A, 2013: Mesenchymal stem  
396 cells from amnion and amniotic fluid in the bovine. *Reproduction* **145**, 391-400.

397 Corradetti B, Correani A, Romaldini A, Marini MG, Bizzaro D, Perrini C, Cremonesi F, Lange-  
398 Consiglio A, 2014: Amniotic membrane-derived mesenchymal cells and their conditioned media:  
399 potential candidates for uterine regenerative therapy in the horse. *PLoS One* **9**, e111324.

400 Cremonesi F, Violini S, Lange Consiglio A, Ramelli P, Ranzenigo G, Mariani P, 2008: Isolation, in  
401 vitro culture and characterization of foal umbilical cord stem cells at birth. *Vet Res Commun* **32**,  
402 S139-S142.

403 da Cunha ER, Martins CF, Silva CG, Bessler HC, Báo SN, 2014: Effects of prolonged in vitro  
404 culture and cryopreservation on viability, DNA Fragmentation, chromosome stability and  
405 ultrastructure of bovine cells from amniotic fluid and umbilical cord. *Reprod Domest Anim* **49**,  
406 806-812.

407 De Schauwer C, Meyer E, Cornillie P, De Vlieghe S, van de Walle GR, Hoogewijs M, Declercq H,  
408 Govaere J, Demeyere K, Cornelissen M, Van Soom A, 2011: Optimization of the isolation, culture,  
409 and characterization of equine umbilical cord blood mesenchymal stromal cells. *Tissue Eng Part C*  
410 *Methods* **17**, 1061-1070.

411 De Schauwer C, Piepers S, Van de Walle GR, Demeyere K, Hoogewijs MK, Govaere JL,  
412 Braeckmans K, Van Soom A, Meyer E, 2012: In search for cross-reactivity to immunophenotype  
413 equine mesenchymal stromal cells by multicolor flow cytometry. *Cytometry A* **81**, 312-23.

414 De Schauwer C, Van de Walle, GR, Piepers S, Hoogewijs MK, Govaere JL, Meyer E, Van Soom  
415 A, 2013: Successful isolation of equine mesenchymal stromal cells from cryopreserved umbilical  
416 cord blood-derived mononuclear cell fractions. *Equine Vet J* **45**, 518-522.

417 De Schauwer C, Goossens K, Piepers S, Hoogewijs MK, Govaere JL, Smits K, Meyer E, Van Soom  
418 A, Van de Walle GR, 2014: Characterization and profiling of immunomodulatory genes of equine  
419 mesenchymal stromal cells from non-invasive sources. *Stem Cell Res Ther* **5**, 6.

420 Dev K, Gautam SK, Giri SK, Kumar A, Yadav A, Verma V, Kumar P, Singh, B, 2012a: Isolation,  
421 culturing and characterization of feeder-independent amniotic fluid stem cells in buffalo (*Bubalus*  
422 *bubalis*). *Res Vet Sci* **93**, 743-748.

423 Dev K, Giri SK, Kumar A, Yadav A, Singh B, Gautam SK, 2012b: Derivation, characterization and  
424 differentiation of buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) amniotic fluid derived stem cells. *Reprod Domest Anim*  
425 **47**, 704-711.

426 Dev K, Giri SK, Kumar A, Yadav A, Singh B, Gautam SK, 2012c. Expression of transcriptional  
427 factor genes (Oct-4, Nanog, and Sox-2) and embryonic stem cell-like characters in placental  
428 membrane of Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). *J Membr Biol* **245**, 177-183.

429 Di Tomo P, Pipino C, Lanuti P, Morabito C, Pierdomenico L, Sirolli V, Bonomini M, Miscia S,  
430 Mariggìò MA, Marchisio M, Barboni B, Pandolfi A, 2013: Calcium Sensing Receptor Expression  
431 in Ovine Amniotic Fluid Mesenchymal Stem Cells and the Potential Role of R-568 during  
432 Osteogenic Differentiation. *PLoS One*, **8**, e73816.

433 Doarn R. Umbilical blood flow and the effects of premature severance in the neonatal horse.  
434 *Theriogenology* 1985, **78**, 789-800.

435 Dominici M, Le Blanc K, Mueller I, Slaper-Cortenbach I, Marini F, Krause D, Deans R, Keating A,  
436 Prockop Dj, Horwitz E, 2006: Minimal criteria for defining multipotent mesenchymal stromal cells.  
437 The International Society for Cellular Therapy position statement. *Cytotherapy* **8**, 315-317.

438 Erices A, Conget P, Minguell JJ, 2000: Mesenchymal progenitor cells in human umbilical cord  
439 blood. *Br J Haematol* **109**, 235-242.

440 Fadel L, Viana BR, Feitosa ML, Ercolin AC, Roballo KC, Casals JB, Pieri NC, Meirelles FV,  
441 Martins Ddos S, Miglino MA, Ambrósio CE, 2011: Protocols for obtainment and isolation of two  
442 mesenchymal stem cell sources in sheep. *Acta Cir Bras* **26**, 267-273.

443 Fernandes RA, Wenceslau CV, Reginato AL, Kerkis I, Miglino MA, 2012: Derivation and  
444 characterization of progenitor stem cells from canine allantois and amniotic fluids at the third  
445 trimester of gestation. *Placenta* **33**, 640-644.

446 Figueroa RJ, Koch TG, Betts DH, 2011: Osteogenic differentiation of equine cord blood  
447 multipotent mesenchymal stromal cells within coralline hydroxyapatite scaffolds in vitro. *Vet Comp*  
448 *Orthop Traumatol* **24**, 354-362.

449 Filioli Uranio M, Valentini L, Lange Consiglio A, Caira M, Guaricci AC, L'Abbate A, Catacchio  
450 CR, Ventura M, Cremonesi F, Dell'Aquila ME, 2011: Isolation, proliferation, cytogenetic, and  
451 molecular characterization and in vitro differentiation potency of canine stem cells from foetal  
452 adnexa: a comparative study of amniotic fluid, amnion, and umbilical cord matrix. *Mol Reprod Dev*  
453 **78**, 361-373.

454 Filioli Uranio M, Dell'Aquila ME, Caira M, Guaricci AC, Ventura M, Catacchio CR, Martino NA,  
455 Valentini L, 2014: Characterization and in vitro differentiation potency of early-passage canine  
456 amnion- and umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells as related to gestational age. *Mol*  
457 *Reprod Dev* **81**, 539-551.

458 Fuchs JR, Kaviani A, Oh JT, LaVan D, Udagawa T, Jennings RW, Wilson JM, Fauza DO, 2004:  
459 Diaphragmatic reconstruction with autologous tendon engineered from mesenchymal amniocytes. *J*  
460 *Pediatr Surg* **39**, 834-838.

461 Fuchs JR, Hannouche D, Terada S, Zand S, Vacanti JP, Fauza DO, 2005: Cartilage engineering  
462 from ovine umbilical cord blood mesenchymal progenitor cells. *Stem Cells* **23**, 958-964.

463 Gao Y, Zhu Z, Zhao Y, Hua J, Ma Y, Guan W, 2014: Multilineage potential research of bovine  
464 amniotic fluid mesenchymal stem cells. *Int J Mol Sci* **15**, 3698-3710.

465 Goldschlager T, Ghosh P, Zannettino A, Williamson M, Rosenfeld JV, Itescu S, Jenkin G, 2011: A  
466 comparison of mesenchymal precursor cells and amnion epithelial cells for enhancing cervical  
467 interbody fusion in an ovine model. *Neurosurgery* **68**, 1025-1034.

468 Gray FL, Turner CG, Ahmed A, Calvert CE, Zurakowski D, Fauza DO, 2012: Prenatal tracheal  
469 reconstruction with a hybrid amniotic mesenchymal stem cells-engineered construct derived from  
470 decellularized airway. *J Pediatr Surg* **47**, 1072-1079.

471 Guest DJ, Ousey JC, Smith MR, 2008: Defining the expression of marker genes in equine  
472 mesenchymal stromal cells. *Stem Cells Cloning*, **1**, 1-9.

473 Gulati BR, Kumar R, Mohanty N, Kumar P, Somasundaram RK, Yadav PS, 2013: Bone  
474 morphogenetic protein-12 induces tenogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells derived  
475 from equine amniotic fluid. *Cells Tissues Organs* **198**, 377-389.

476 Hoynowski SM, Fry MM, Gardner BM, Leming MT, Tucker JR, Black L, Sand T, Mitchell KE,  
477 2007: Characterization and differentiation of equine umbilical cord-derived matrix cells. *Biochem*  
478 *Biophys Res Commun* **362**, 347-353.

479 Iacono E, Brunori L, Pirrone A, Pagliaro PP, Ricci F, Tazzari PL, Merlo B, 2012a: Isolation,  
480 characterization and differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells from amniotic fluid, umbilical cord  
481 blood and Wharton's jelly in the horse. *Reproduction* **143**, 455-468.

482 Iacono E, Cunto M, Zambelli D, Ricci F, Tazzari PL, Merlo B, 2012b: Could fetal fluid and  
483 membranes be an alternative source for mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) in the feline species? A  
484 preliminary study. *Vet Res Commun* **36**, 107-118.

485 Iacono E, Merlo B, Pirrone A, Antonelli C, Brunori L, Romagnoli N, Castagnetti C, 2012c: Effects  
486 of mesenchymal stem cells isolated from amniotic fluid and platelet-rich plasma gel on severe  
487 decubitus ulcers in a septic neonatal foal. *Res Vet Sci* **93**, 1439-1440.

488 Jager M, Bachmann R, Scharfstadt A, Krauspe R, 2006: Ovine cord blood accommodates  
489 multipotent mesenchymal progenitor cells. *In Vivo* **20**, 205-214.

490 Jang BJ, Byeon YE, Lim JH, Ryu HH, Kim WH, Koyama Y, Kikuchi M, Kang KS, Kweon OK,  
491 2008: Implantation of canine umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stem cells mixed with  
492 beta-tricalcium phosphate enhances osteogenesis in bone defect model dogs. *J Vet Sci* **9**, 387-393.

493 Jin GZ, Yin XJ, Yu XF, Cho SJ, Choi EG, Lee YS, Jeon JT, Yee ST, Kong IK, 2008: Generation of  
494 neuronal-like cells from umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stem cells of a RFP-transgenic  
495 cloned cat. *J Vet Med Sci* **70**, 723-726.

496 Kang BJ, Ryu HH, Park SS, Koyama Y, Kikuchi M, Woo HM, Kim WH, Kweon OK, 2012:  
497 Comparing the osteogenic potential of canine mesenchymal stem cells derived from adipose tissues,  
498 bone marrow, umbilical cord blood, and Wharton's jelly for treating bone defects. *J Vet Sci* **13**, 299-  
499 310.

500 Kang JG, Park SB, Seo MS, Kim HS, Chae JS, Kang KS, 2013: Characterization and clinical  
501 application of mesenchymal stem cells from equine umbilical cord blood. *J Vet Sci* **14**, 367-371.

502 Kaviani A, Perry TE, Dzakovic A, Jennings RW, Ziegler MM, Fauza DO, 2001: The amniotic fluid  
503 as a source of cells for fetal tissue engineering. *J Pediatr Surg* **36**, 1662-1665.

504 Kim EY, Lee KB, Yu J, Lee JH, Kim KJ, Han KW, Park KS, Lee DS, Kim MK, 2014: Neuronal  
505 cell differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells originating from canine amniotic fluid. *Hum Cell* **27**,  
506 51-58.

507 Kimura M, Toyoda M, Gojo S, Itakura Y, Kami D, Miyoshi S, Kyo S, Ono M, Umezawa A, 2012:  
508 Allogeneic amniotic membrane-derived mesenchymal stromal cell transplantation in a porcine  
509 model of chronic myocardial ischemia. *J Stem Cells Regen Med* **8**:171-180.

510 Klemmt PA, Vafaizadeh V, Groner B, 2011: The potential of amniotic fluid stem cells for cellular  
511 therapy and tissue engineering. *Expert Opin Biol Ther* **11**, 1297-1314.

512 Koch TG, Heerkens T, Thomsen PD, Betts DH, 2007: Isolation of mesenchymal stem cells from  
513 equine umbilical cord blood. *BMC Biotechnol* **30**, 7-26.

514 Kumar BM, Yoo JG, Ock SA, Kim JG, Song HJ, Kang EJ, Cho SK, Lee SL, Cho JH,  
515 Balasubramanian S, Rho GJ, 2007: In vitro differentiation of mesenchymal progenitor cells derived  
516 from porcine umbilical cord blood. *Mol Cells* **24**, 343-350.

517 Kunisaki SM, Jennings RW, Fauza DO, 2006a: Fetal cartilage engineering from amniotic  
518 mesenchymal progenitor cells. *Stem Cells Dev* **15**, 245-253.

519 Kunisaki SM, Freedman DA, Fauza DO, 2006b: Fetal tracheal reconstruction with cartilaginous  
520 grafts engineered from mesenchymal amniocytes. *J Pediatr Surg* **41**, 675-682.

521 Kunisaki SM, Fuchs JR, Kaviani A, Oh JT, LaVan DA, Vacanti JP, Wilson JM, Fauza DO, 2006c:  
522 Diaphragmatic repair through fetal tissue engineering: a comparison between mesenchymal  
523 amniocyte- and myoblast-based constructs. *J Pediatr Surg* **41**, 34-39.

524 Kunisaki SM, Fuchs JR, Steigman SA, Fauza DO, 2007: A comparative analysis of cartilage  
525 engineered from different perinatal mesenchymal progenitor cells. *Tissue Eng* **13**, 2633-2644.

526 Lange-consiglio A, Corradetti B, Rutigliano L, Cremonesi F, Bizzaro D, 2011: *In vitro* studies of  
527 horse umbilical cord matrix-derived cells: from characterization to labeling for magnetic resonance  
528 imaging. *Open Tissue Eng Regen Med J* **4**, 120-133.

529 Lange-Consiglio A, Corradetti B, Bizzaro D, Magatti M, Ressel L, Tassan S, Parolini O, Cremonesi  
530 F, 2012: Characterization and potential applications of progenitor-like cells isolated from horse  
531 amniotic membrane. *J Tissue Eng Regen Med* **6**, 622-635.

532 Lange-Consiglio A, Corradetti B, Meucci A, Perego R, Bizzaro D, Cremonesi F, 2013a:  
533 Characteristics of equine mesenchymal stem cells derived from amnion and bone marrow: in vitro  
534 proliferative and multilineage potential assessment. *Equine Vet J* **45**, 737-744.

535 Lange-Consiglio A, Rossi D, Tassan S, Perego R, Cremonesi F, Parolini O, 2013b: Conditioned  
536 medium from horse amniotic membrane-derived multipotent progenitor cells: immunomodulatory  
537 activity in vitro and first clinical application in tendon and ligament injuries in vivo. *Stem Cells Dev*  
538 **22**, 3015-3024.

539 Lange-Consiglio A, Tassan S, Corradetti B, Meucci A, Perego R, Bizzaro D, Cremonesi F, 2013c:  
540 Investigating the efficacy of amnion-derived compared with bone marrow-derived mesenchymal  
541 stromal cells in equine tendon and ligament injuries. *Cytherapy* **15**, 1011-1020.



542 Lee KS, Cha SH, Kang HW, Song JY, Lee KW, Ko KB, Lee HT, 2013a: Effects of serial passage  
543 on the characteristics and chondrogenic differentiation of canine umbilical cord matrix derived  
544 mesenchymal stem cells. *Asian-Australas J Anim Sci* **26**, 588-595.

545 Lee KS, Nah JJ, Lee BC, Lee HT, Lee HS, So BJ, Cha SH, 2013b: Maintenance and  
546 characterization of multipotent mesenchymal stem cells isolated from canine umbilical cord matrix  
547 by collagenase digestion. *Res Vet Sci* **94**, 144-151.

548 Lim JH, Byeon YE, Ryu HH, Jeong YH, Lee YW, Kim WH, Kang KS, Kweon OK, 2007:  
549 Transplantation of canine umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stem cells in experimentally  
550 induced spinal cord injured dogs. *J Vet Sci* **8**, 275-282.

551 Lin CS, Ning H, Lin G, Lue TF, 2012: Is CD34 truly a negative marker for mesenchymal stromal  
552 cells? *Cytotherapy* **14**, 1159-1163.

553 Lindenmair A, Hatlapatka T, Kollwig G, Hennerbichler S, Gabriel C, Wolbank S, Redl H, Kasper  
554 C, 2012: Mesenchymal stem or stromal cells from amnion and umbilical cord tissue and their  
555 potential for clinical applications. *Cells* **1**, 1061-1088.

556 Lovati AB, Corradetti B, Lange-Consiglio A, Recordati C, Bonacina E, Bizzaro D, Cremonesi F,  
557 2011: Comparison of equine bone marrow-, umbilical cord matrix and amniotic fluid-derived  
558 progenitor cells. *Vet Res Commun* **35**, 103-121.

559 Luo H, Lu Y, Wu T, Zhang M, Zhang Y, Jin Y, 2013: Construction of tissue-engineered cornea  
560 composed of amniotic epithelial cells and acellular porcine cornea for treating corneal alkali burn.  
561 *Biomaterials* **34**, 6748-6759.

562 Mann A, Yadav RP, Singh J, Kumar D, Singh B, Yadav PS, 2013: Culture, characterization and  
563 differentiation of cells from buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) amnion. *Cytotechnology* **65**, 23-30.

564 Martino NA, Lange-Consiglio A, Cremonesi F, Valentini L, Caira M, Guaricci AC, Ambruosi B,  
565 Sciorsci RL, Lacalandra GM, Reshkin SJ, Dell'Aquila ME, 2012: Functional expression of the

566 extracellular calcium sensing receptor (CaSR) in equine umbilical cord matrix size-sieved stem  
567 cells. PLoS One **6**, e17714.

568 Mattioli M, Gloria A, Turriani M, Mauro A, Curini V, Russo V, Tetè S, Marchisio M,  
569 Pierdomenico L, Berardinelli P, Colosimo A, Muttini A, Valbonetti L, Barboni B, 2012: Stemness  
570 characteristics and osteogenic potential of sheep amniotic epithelial cells. Cell Biol Int **36**, 7-19.

571 Mauro A, Turriani M, Ioannoni A, Russo V, Martelli A, Di Giacinto O, Nardinocchi D, Berardinelli  
572 P, 2010: Isolation, characterization, and in vitro differentiation of ovine amniotic stem cells. Vet  
573 Res Commun **34**, S25-28.

574 McGeady TA, Quinn PJ, FitzPatrick ES, Ryan MT, 2006: Foetal Membranes. In: Veterinary  
575 Embryology. Blackwell Publishing, pp. 66-75.

576 Miller D, Packthongsuk K, Rathbun T, Boyle D, Troyer D, Davis DL, 2012: Confocal imaging of  
577 trans-epithelial trafficking by immune and umbilical cord stem cells in the neonatal porcine  
578 intestine. Anat Histol Embryol **41**, 461-468.

579 Mitchell KE, Weiss ML, Mitchell BM, Martin, P, Davis D, Morales L, Helwig B, Beerenstrauch M,  
580 Abou-Easa K, Hildreth T, Troyer D, Medicetty S, 2003: Matrix cells from Wharton's jelly form  
581 neurons and glia. Stem Cells **21**, 50-60.

582 Mohanty N, Gulati BR, Kumar R, Gera S, Kumar P, Somasundaram RK, Kumar S, 2014:  
583 Immunophenotypic characterization and tenogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stromal cells  
584 isolated from equine umbilical cord blood. In Vitro Cell Dev Biol Anim **50**, 538-548.

585 Nanaev AK, Kohnen G, Milovanov AP, Domogatsky SP, Kaufmann P, 1997: Stromal  
586 differentiation and architecture of the human umbilical cord. Placenta **18**, 53-64.

587 Paebst F, Piehler D, Brehm W, Heller S, Schroeck C, Tarnok A, Burk J, 2014: Comparative  
588 immunophenotyping of equine multipotent mesenchymal stromal cells: an approach toward a  
589 standardized definition. Cytometry A **85**, 678-687.

590 Park SS, Byeon YE, Ryu HH, Kang BJ, Kim Y, Kim WH, Kang KS, Han HJ, Kweon OK, 2011:  
591 Comparison of canine umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stem cell transplantation times:  
592 involvement of astrogliosis, inflammation, intracellular actin cytoskeleton pathways, and  
593 neurotrophin-3. *Cell Transplant* **20**, 1867-1880.

594 Park SB, Seo MS, Kim HS, Kang KS, 2012: Isolation and characterization of canine amniotic  
595 membrane-derived multipotent stem cells. *PLoS One* **7**, e44693.

596 Passeri S, Nocchi F, Lamanna R, Lapi S, Miragliotta V, Giannessi E, Abramo F, Stornelli MR,  
597 Matarazzo M, Plenteda D, Urciuoli P, Scatena F, Coli A, 2009: Isolation and expansion of equine  
598 umbilical cord-derived matrix cells (EUCMCs). *Cell Biol Int* **33**, 100-105.

599 Peng SY, Chou CJ, Cheng PJ, Tseng TY, Cheng WT, Shaw SW, Wu SC, 2014:  
600 Intramuscular transplantation of pig amniotic fluid derived progenitor cells has therapeutic potential  
601 in a mouse model of myocardial infarction. *Cell Transplant*, doi: 10.3727/096368914X680109.

602 Pratheesh MD, Gade NE, Katiyar AN, Dubey PK, Sharma B, Saikumar G, Amarpal, Sharma GT,  
603 2013: Isolation, culture and characterization of caprine mesenchymal stem cells derived from  
604 amniotic fluid. *Res Vet Sci* **94**, 313-319.

605 Pratheesh MD, Gade NE, Dubey PK, Nath A, Sivanarayanan TB, Madhu DN, Sharma B, Amarpal,  
606 Saikumar G, Sharma GT, 2014: Molecular characterization and xenogenic application of Wharton's  
607 jelly derived caprine mesenchymal stem cells. *Vet Res Commun* **38**, 139-148.

608 Raoufi MF, Tajik P, Dehghan MM, Eini F, Barin A, 2011: Isolation and differentiation of  
609 mesenchymal stem cells from bovine umbilical cord blood. *Reprod Domest Anim* **46**, 95-99.

610 Reed SA, Johnson SE, 2008: Equine umbilical cord blood contains a population of stem cells that  
611 express Oct4 and differentiate into mesodermal and endodermal cell types. *J Cell Physiol* **215**, 329-  
612 336.

613 Rossdale PD. Parturition in the thoroughbred mare with particular reference to blood deprivation in  
614 the new-born. *Vet Record* 1958: **70**, 142–151.

615 Rossi B, Merlo B, Colleoni S, Iacono E, Tazzari PL, Ricci F, Lazzari G, Galli C, 2014: Isolation  
616 and in vitro characterization of bovine amniotic fluid derived stem cells at different trimesters of  
617 pregnancy. *Stem Cell Rev* **10**, 712-724.

618 Rutigliano L, Corradetti B, Valentini L, Bizzaro D, Meucci A, Cremonesi F, Lange-Consiglio A,  
619 2013: Molecular characterization and in vitro differentiation of feline progenitor-like amniotic  
620 epithelial cells. *Stem Cell Res Ther* **4**, 133.

621 Ryu HH, Kang BJ, Park SS, Kim Y, Sung GJ, Woo HM, Kim WH, Kweon OK, 2012: Comparison  
622 of mesenchymal stem cells derived from fat, bone marrow, Wharton's jelly, and umbilical cord  
623 blood for treating spinal cord injuries in dogs. *J Vet Med Sci* **74**, 1617-1630.

624 Sartore S, Lenzi M, Angelini A, Chiavegato A, Gasparotto L, De Coppi P, Bianco R, Gerosa G,  
625 2005: Amniotic mesenchymal cells autotransplanted in a porcine model of cardiac ischemia do not  
626 differentiate to cardiogenic phenotypes. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg* **28**, 677-684.

627 Schuh EM, Friedman MS, Carrade DD, Li J, Heeke D, Oyserman SM, Galuppo LD, Lara DJ,  
628 Walker NJ, Ferraro GL, Owens SD, Borjesson DL, 2009: Identification of variables that optimize  
629 isolation and culture of multipotent mesenchymal stem cells from equine umbilical-cord blood. *Am*  
630 *J Vet Res* **70**, 1526-1535.

631 Seo MS, Jeong YH, Park JR, Park SB, Rho KH, Kim HS, Yu KR, Lee SH, Jung JW, Lee YS, Kang  
632 KS, 2009: Isolation and characterization of canine umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stem  
633 cells. *J Vet Sci* **10**, 181-187.

634 Seo MS, Park SB, Kang KS, 2012: Isolation and characterization of canine Wharton's jelly-derived  
635 mesenchymal stem cells. *Cell Transplant* **21**, 1493-1502.

636 Seo MS, Park SB, Kim HS, Kang JG, Chae JS, Kang KS, 2013: Isolation and characterization of  
637 equine amniotic membrane-derived mesenchymal stem cells. *J Vet Sci* **14**, 151-159.

638 Shaw SW, Bollini S, Nader KA, Gastadello A, Mehta V, Filppi E, Cananzi M, Gaspar HB, Qasim  
639 W, De Coppi P, David AL, 2011: Autologous transplantation of amniotic fluid-derived  
640 mesenchymal stem cells into sheep fetuses. *Cell Transplant* **20**, 1015-1031.

641 Singh J, Mann A, Kumar D, Duhan JS, Yadav PS, 2013: Cultured buffalo umbilical cord matrix  
642 cells exhibit characteristics of multipotent mesenchymal stem cells. *In Vitro Cell Dev Biol Anim*  
643 **49**, 408-416.

644 Sobolewski K, Bańkowski E, Chyczewski L, Jaworski S, 1997: Collagen and glycosaminoglycans  
645 of Wharton's jelly. *Biol Neonate* **71**, 11-21.

646 Sreekumar TR, Ansari MM, Chandra V, Sharma GT, 2014: Isolation and characterization of buffalo  
647 Wharton's Jelly derived mesenchymal stem cells. *J Stem Cell Res Ther* **4**, doi:10.4172/2157-  
648 7633.1000207.

649 Takechi K1, Kuwabara Y, Mizuno M, 1993: Ultrastructural and immunohistochemical studies of  
650 Wharton's jelly umbilical cord cells. *Placenta* **14**, 235-245.

651 Toupadakis CA, Wong A, Genetos DC, Cheung WK, Borjesson DL, Ferraro GL, Galuppo LD,  
652 Leach JK, Owens SD, Yellowley CE, 2010: Comparison of the osteogenic potential of equine  
653 mesenchymal stem cells from bone marrow, adipose tissue, umbilical cord blood, and umbilical  
654 cord tissue. *Am J Vet Res* **71**, 1237-1245.

655 Turner CG, Klein JD, Steigman SA, Armant M, Nicksa GA, Zurakowski D, Ritz J, Fauza, DO,  
656 2011: Preclinical regulatory validation of an engineered diaphragmatic tendon made with amniotic  
657 mesenchymal stem cells. *J Pediatr Surg* **46**, 57-61.

658 Van Loon VJ, Scheffer CJ, Genn HJ, Hoogendoorn AC, Greve JW, 2014: Clinical follow-up of  
659 horses treated with allogeneic equine mesenchymal stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood  
660 for different tendon and ligament disorders. *Vet Q*, **34**, 92-97.

661 Vidane AS, Souza AF, Sampaio RV, Bressan FF, Pieri NC, Martins DS, Meirelles FV, Miglino  
662 MA, Ambrósio CE, 2014: Cat amniotic membrane multipotent cells are nontumorigenic and are  
663 safe for use in cell transplantation. *Stem Cells Cloning* **7**, 71-78.

664 Violini S, Gorni C, Pisani LF, Ramelli P, Caniatti M, Mariani P, 2012: Isolation and differentiation  
665 potential of an equine amnion-derived stromal cell line. *Cytotechnology* **64**, 1-7.

666 Weber B, Emmert MY, Behr L, Schoenauer R, Brokopp C, Drogemuller C, Modregger P,  
667 Stampanoni M, Vats D, Rudin M, Bürzle W, Farine M, Mazza E, Frauenfelder T, Zannettino AC,  
668 Zünd G, Kretschmar O, Falk V, Hoerstrup SP, 2012: Prenatally engineered autologous amniotic  
669 fluid stem cell-based heart valves in the fetal circulation. *Biomaterials* **33**, 4031-4043.

670 Weber B, Kehl D, Bleul U, Behr L, Sammut S, Frese L, Ksiazek A, Achermann J, Stranzinger G,  
671 Robert J, Sanders B, Sidler M, Brokopp CE, Proulx ST, Frauenfelder T, Schoenauer R, Emmert  
672 MY, Falk V, Hoerstrup SP, 2013: In vitro fabrication of autologous living tissue-engineered  
673 vascular grafts based on prenatally harvested ovine amniotic fluid-derived stem cells. *J Tissue Eng*  
674 *Regen Med*, doi: 10.1002/term.1781.

675 Weiss ML, Mitchell KE, Hix JE, Medicetty S, El-Zarkouny SZ, Grieger D, Troyer DL, 2003:  
676 Transplantation of porcine umbilical cord matrix cells into the rat brain. *Exp Neurol* **182**, 288-299.

677 Yadav PS, Mann A, Singh V, Yashveer S, Sharma RK, Singh I, 2011: Expression of pluripotency  
678 genes in buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) amniotic fluid cells. *Reprod Domest Anim* **46**, 705-711.

679 Zheng YM, Zhao HY, Zhao XE, Quan FS, Hua S, He XY, Liu J, He XN, Lin H, 2009:  
680 Development of cloned embryos from porcine neural stem cells and amniotic fluid-derived stem  
681 cells transfected with enhanced green fluorescence protein gene. *Reproduction* **137**, 793-801.

682 Zheng YM, Zhao XE, An ZX, 2010: Neurogenic differentiation of EGFP gene transfected amniotic  
683 fluid-derived stem cells from pigs at intermediate and late gestational ages. *Reprod Domest Anim*  
684 **45**, e78-82.

685

686

687

688

689 **Table 1.** AMSCs characterization.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Phenotype</b>	<b><i>In vitro</i> differentiation</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
Sheep	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,TERT+	Osteogenic, myogenic	(Mauro et al. 2010)
Horse	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD90+,CD14+,CD45+,CD29-,MHCI-,MHCII- <b>ICC:</b> cKit+,Oct4+,CD105+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Coli et al. 2011)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,SOX2+,NANOG+,CD105+,CD34-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Violini et al. 2012)
	<b>ICC:</b> Tra1-60+,SSEA3+,SSEA4+,Oct4+ <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD105+,CD44+,CD166+,CD34-,MHCI+,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Lange-Consiglio et al. 2012)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD19-,CD20-,CD28-,CD31-,CD34-,CD38-,CD41a-,CD62L-,CD62P-,CD200-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Seo et al. 2013)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>ICC:</b> Tra1-60+, SSEA4+,Oct4+ <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD105+,CD44+,CD166+,CD34-,MHCI+,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Lange-Consiglio et al. 2013a)
	<b>FCA:</b> Oct4+,SSEA4+,cMyc+,CD34- <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD44+, CD166+, CD105+, CD34-MHCI+,MHCII-		(Corradetti et al. 2014)
Dog	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG-,CD44+,CD184+,CD29+,CD34-,CD45-,DLA79-,DLA88-,DLA-DRA1-,DLA-DQA1-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Filioli Uranio et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD90+,CD105+,CD3-,CD11c-,CD28-,CD34-,CD38-,CD41a-,CD45-,CD62L- <b>qPCR:</b> OCT4+,SOX2+,NANOG+,KLF4+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Park et al. 2012)



	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG-,CD29+,CD44+,CD184+,CD34-,CD45-,DLA79-,DLA88-,DLA-DRA1-,DLA-DQA1-	Osteogenic, neurogenic	(Filioli Uranio et al. 2014)
Cat	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD14-,CD34-,CD45-,CD73-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Iacono et al. 2012b)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD73+,CD90+,CD34±,CD45-,CD79-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Vidane et al. 2014)
Buffalo	<b>AP+</b> <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,SOX2+,NANOG+,AP+,SCF+,NESTIN+		(Dev et al. 2012c)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,SOX2+,NANOG+	Osteogenic	(Mann et al. 2013)
Bovine	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,Myc+,CD44+,CD166+,CD73+,CD29+,CD105-,CD45-,CD14-,CD34-,MHCI+,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, neurogenic	(Corradetti et al. 2013)

690 +: positive, -: negative; ±: weakly positive; ICC: immunocytochemistry.

691 **Table 2.** AFMSCs characterization.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Phenotype</b>	<b><i>In vitro</i> differentiation</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
Sheep	<b>ICC:</b> FSP+,CD31-,Vimentin+, $\alpha$ SMA+,Desmin-,CK8+,CK18+		(Kaviani et al. 2001)
	<b>ICC:</b> Vimentin+,CK8+,CK18+,CD31-	Chondrogenic	(Kunisaki et al. 2006a)
		Chondrogenic	(Kunisaki et al. 2006b)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90 $\pm$ ,CD105 $\pm$ ,CD31-	Adipogenic, osteogenic	(Kunisaki et al. 2007)
	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,TERT+	Osteogenic, myogenic	(Mauro et al. 2010)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD58+,CD166+,CD14-,CD31-,CD45-	Adipogenic, osteogenic	(Shaw et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD105+,CD166+,CD31-		(Gray et al. 2012)
	<b>ICC:</b> SSEA4+,STRO4+,CD29+,CD44+,CD166+ <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+		(Weber et al. 2012)
	<b>ICC:</b> TERT+,Sox2+,Nanog+ <b>semiPCR:</b> TERT+,NANOG+,SOX2 $\pm$ ,OCT4 $\pm$	Osteogenic	(Colosimo et al. 2013a)
	<b>FCA:</b> Sox2+,Nanog+,TERT+,CD166+,CD29 $\pm$ ,CD58 $\pm$ ,CD14-,CD31- ,CD45-,c-Kit- <b>ICC:</b> Sox2+,Nanog+,TERT+,c-Kit-	Adipogenic, osteogenic, tenogenic	(Colosimo et al. 2013b)
	<b>FCA:</b> TERT+,Oct3/4+,Nanog+,Sox2+,CD29+,CD58+,CD90+,CD166 $\pm$ ,CD14- ,CD31-,CD45-,CD49f-,CD117-,HLA-ABC+, HLA-DR-	Osteogenic	(Di Tomo et al. 2013)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD166+,CD29+,STRO4+ <b>ICC:</b> CD29+,CD44+,STRO4+,CD166 $\pm$ ,CD11b-	Chondrogenic, osteogenic, endothelial, myogenic/myofibroblasts	(Weber et al. 2013)

	, Vimentin+, $\alpha$ SMA $\pm$ , Desmin $\pm$ <b>qPCR:</b> NANOG+, STAT3+		
Swine	<b>ICC:</b> SSEA4 $\pm$ , Oct4 $\pm$ , CD90+, Vimentin+, vWf+, SM22+, VE- Cadherin $\pm$ , $\alpha$ SMA $\pm$ , CD31 $\pm$ , CD105-, CD117-, CD34-, CD45-, Sca-1- , CardiacTnI-		(Sartore et al. 2005)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+, SOX2+, THY+	Adipogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic, myogenic, endothelial	(Zheng et al. 2009)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+, SOX2+, THY+ <b>FCA:</b> CD44+, CD166+, CD34-, CD45-, CD54- <b>ICC:</b> Oct4+, Nanog+, Tra1-60+, Tra1-81+, SSEA4+, SSEA1- <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD90+, CD117+, HLA-ABC+, CD45-	Neurogenic Adipogenic, neurogenic, cardiomyogenic; Multilineage- differentiation through EBs	(Zheng et al. 2010) (Chen et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+, CD90+, CD31-, CD4a-		(Peng et al. 2014)
Horse	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+, SSEA4+, Tra1-60 $\pm$ <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+, CD44+, CD105+, CD34-, ELA-ABC+, ELA-DR-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Lovati et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+, CD90+, CD105+, CD14-, CD34-, CD45-, CD73-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Iacono et al. 2012a)
		Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Iacono et al. 2012c)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>FCA:</b> CD29+, CD44+, CD90+, CD73(clone 5F/B9)-, CD73(clone AD2)+, CD34-, CD45- <b>ICC:</b> CD73+, CD90+, CD34-, CD45- <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD73+, CD90+, CD105+, CD14-, CD34-, CD45-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, tenogenic	(Gulati et al. 2013)

Dog	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG-,CD44+,CD184-,CD29-,CD34-,CD45-,DLA79+,DLA-DRA1+,DLA-DQA1-,DLA 88-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Filioli Uranio et al. 2011)
	<b>ICC:</b> Vimentin+, Nestin+, CK18+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Fernandes et al. 2012)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD34- <b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,Nanog+,Sox2+,CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD34- <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, hepatogenic	(Choi et al. 2013)
		Neurogenic	(Kim et al. 2014)
Cat	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD34±,CD14-,CD45-,CD73-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Iacono et al. 2012b)
Buffalo	<b>AP+</b> <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NESTIN+,FGF5+		(Dev et al. 2012a)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+,AP+,SCF+,CyclinA+,NESTIN+,FGF5+	Neurogenic	(Dev et al. 2012b)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>qPCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+		(Yadav et al. 2012)
Caprine	<b>FCA:</b> Nanog+,Sox2+ <b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,Nanog+,Sox2+,SSEA4+,SSEA1+ <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD34-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Pratheesh et al. 2013)

Bovine	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,MYC+,CD29+,CD44+,CD73+,CD166+,CD14- ,CD34-,CD45-,CD105-,CD117+,MHCI+,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, neurogenic	(Corradetti et al. 2013)
	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,CD29+,CD44+,CD71+,CD34- <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,CD29+,CD44+,CD73+,CD166+,CD34-,CD45-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, neurogenic	(Gao et al. 2014)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD34+,CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD14- <b>ICC:</b> Oct4-,SSEA4±,αSMA+,Vimentin+,N-Cadherin+,E-Cadherin-,CK- <b>qPCR:</b> OCT4-,NANOG-,SOX2-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Rossi et al. 2014)

---

692    +: positive, -: negative; ±: weakly positive; ICC: immunocytochemistry.

693

694 **Table 3.** UCBMSCs characterization.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Phenotype</b>	<b><i>In vitro</i> differentiation</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
Sheep		Chondrogenic	(Fuchs et al. 2005)
		Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Jager et al. 2006)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD38-,CD45-,CD41/61-		(Fadel et al. 2011)
Horse		Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Koch et al. 2007)
	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4-,SSEA1-,SSEA3-,SSEA4-,Tra1-60-,Tra1-81-,AP+,CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD14-,CD79 $\alpha$ -,Coll I+,Coll II+,Coll III+,Coll IX/XI+,MHCI $\pm$ ,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, Osteogenic	(Guest et al. 2008)
	<b>AP +</b>	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, hepatogenic, myogenic	(Reed and Johnson, 2008)
	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,Tra1-60+,Tra1-81+,SSEA1+,SSEA4 $\pm$	Chondrogenic	(Berg et al. 2009)
	<b>ICC:</b> Vimentin $\pm$ , $\alpha$ SMA $\pm$ ,CD18-,PanCK-,Factor VIII-,Osteonectin-,Osteocalcin-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Schuh et al. 2009)
		Osteogenic	(Toupadakis et al. 2010)
		Osteogenic	(Figueroa et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD86-,MHCI-,MHCII-		(Carrade et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD86-,MHCI+,MHCII-,F6B-		(Carrade et al. 2012)
<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD79 $\alpha$ -,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic,	(De Shauwer et al. 2011)	

		osteogenic	
	<b>FCA and Confocal Microscopy:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,MHCII-,CD105±,CD45- ,CD73±,CD79α-,monocyte marker-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(De Schauwer et al. 2012)
		Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Burk et al. 2013)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD45-CD79α- ,MHCI+,MHCII-,monocyte marker- <b>RT-qPCR:</b> CD40+,CD80±,CD86-,TGFβ+,HGF±,IDO-,TNFα-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic,	(De Schauwer et al. 2013)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD90+,CD105+,CD20-,CD28-,CD38-,CD62L-CD200- ,CD31-,CD62P-,CD34-,CD41a-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Kang et al. 2013)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD45-CD79α- ,MHCI+,MHCII-,monocyte marker- <b>qPCR:</b> CD40+,CD80+,CD86-,TGFβ+,HGF±,IDO-,TNFα-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic,	(De Schauwer et al. 2014)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD34-,CD45- <b>ICC:</b> CD73+,CD90+,CD34-,CD45- <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD14- ,CD34-,CD45-	Tenogenic	(Mohanty et al. 2014)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29±,CD44+,CD73-,CD90-,CD105-,CD14-CD34- ,CD45-,CD79α-,MHCII-		(Paebst et al. 2014)
Dog		Osteogenic	(Jang et al. 2008)
	<b>FCA:</b> Oct4+,CD29+,CD33+,CD44+,CD105+,CD184+,CD4- ,CD8a-,CD10-,CD14-,CD24-,CD31-,CD34-,CD38-,CD41a- ,CD45-,CD49b-,CD41/61-,CD62p,CD73-,CD90-,CD133-,HLA-	Chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Seo et al. 2009)

DR-

	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD14-,CD34-,CD45-	Osteogenic	(Kang et al. 2012)
Swine	<b>ICC:</b> CD29+,CD49b+,CD105+,CD45-,CD133-,SCF+,LIF+,G-CSF+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Kumar et al. 2007)
Cat	<b>FCA:</b> CD9+,CD44+,CD18-,CD45- <b>ICC:</b> Vimentin+	Neurogenic	(Jin et al. 2008)
Bovine	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,CD73+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Raoufi et al. 2011)

---

695 + :positive; - : negative; ± : weakly positive; ICC: immunocytochemistry



696 **Table 4.** WJMSCs and UCMSCs characterization.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Phenotype</b>	<b><i>In vitro</i> differentiation</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
Swine	<b>Immunoblotting:</b> c-kit+, $\alpha$ SMA+	Neurogenic	(Mitchell et al. 2003)
	<b>AP+</b>		(Carlin et al. 2006)
	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,Nanog+		
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+		
	<b>qPCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+		
Horse	<b>FCA:</b> CD54+,CD90+,CD105+,CD146+,Oct4+,SSEA4+,c-kit+, SSEA3 $\pm$ ,Tra1-60 $\pm$ ,HLA-ABC-,HLA-1AG-,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Hoynowski et al. 2007)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> Oct4+, Sox2+		(Cremonesi et al. 2008)
		Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Passeri et al. 2009)
		Osteogenic	(Toupadakis et al. 2010)
	<b>FCA:</b> Oct4+,c-myc+,CD34-,CD105-,SSEA4-,SSEA3-,Tra1-60-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Corradetti et al. 2011)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD105+,CD166+,CD14-CD34-, MHCI+,MHCII-		
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD105+,CD166+,CD14-CD34-, MHCI+,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Lange-Consiglio et al. 2011)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD105+,CD34-,MHCI+,MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Lovati et al. 2011)
	<b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,SSEA4+,Tra1-60 $\pm$		
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> CaSR+		(Martino et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD86-,MHCI-,MHCII-		(Carrade et al. 2011)

	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD86-,MHCI+,MHCII-,F6B-		(Carrade et al. 2012)
		Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Burk et al. 2013)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD90+,CD45-,CD73-,CD79 $\alpha$ -,CD105-,MCHII-,Monocyte marker-		(De Schauwer et al. 2013)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD34-,MHCII- <b>ICC:</b> MHCII-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Barberini et al. 2014)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD45-,CD79 $\alpha$ - MHCI+,MHCII-,monocyte marker- <b>qPCR:</b> CD40+,CD80+,CD86-,TGF $\beta$ +,HGF $\pm$ ,IDO-TNF $\alpha$ -	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic,	(De Schauwer et al. 2014)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44 $\pm$ ,CD73-,CD90-,CD105-,CD14-,CD34-, CD45-,CD79 $\alpha$ -,MHCII-		(Paebst et al. 2014)
Caprine	<b>AP+</b> <b>RT-PCR:</b> NANOG-	Chondrogenic	(Co et al. 2014) (Babaei et al. 2008)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD34- <b>ICC:</b> $\alpha$ SMA+		(Azari et al. 2011)
	<b>FCA:</b> STRO1+,CD73+,CD105+,CD34- <b>ICC:</b> STRO1+,CD73+,CD105+,CD34-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Pratheesh et al. 2014)
Dog	<b>RT-PCR:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD184+,OCT4+,CD34-,CD45-, DLA-DQA1-,DLA79-,DLA88-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Filioli Uranio et al. 2011)

	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD14-,CD34-,CD45-	Osteogenic	(Kang et al. 2012)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD14-,CD34-,CD45-	Adipogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Ryu et al. 2012)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD90+,CD105+,CD11c-,CD34-,CD3-,CD45-,CD28-,CD38-,CD62L,CD41a-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Seo et al. 2012)
	<b>RT-PCR:</b> CD44+,CD54+,CD61+,CD80+,CD90+,CD105+	Chondrogenic	(Lee et al. 2013a)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD184+,CD29-,CD33-,CD34-,CD45- <b>ICC:</b> Oct3/4+,Nanog+,Sox2+,SSEA4+,CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD184+ <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT3/4+,NANOG+,SOX2+,CD44+,CD90+,CD105+,CD184+,CD29-,CD34-,CD45-	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Lee et al. 2013b)
	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD44+,CD184+,OCT4+,CD34-,CD45-,DLA-DRA-,DLA-DQA1-,DLA79-,DLA88-	Osteogenic, neurogenic	(Filioli Uranio et al. 2014)
Bovine	<b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,ITSN1+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic, neurogenic	(Cardoso et al. 2012a)
		Neurogenic	(Cardoso et al. 2012b)
Buffalo	<b>FCA:</b> CD29+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD34-,CD36-,CD45- <b>RT-PCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+	Adipogenic, osteogenic	(Singh et al. 2013)
	<b>AP+</b> <b>ICC:</b> Oct4+,Nanog+,Sox2+,CD73+,CD90+,CD105+,CD34- <b>RT-PCR:</b> CD73+,CD90+,CD105+ <b>qPCR:</b> OCT4+,NANOG+,SOX2+	Adipogenic, chondrogenic, osteogenic	(Sreekumar et al. 2014)

698 **Table 5.** Clinical applications of foetal MSCs in domestic animals.

<b>MSCs source</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Clinical application</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
AM	Sheep	Discectomy with bone graft	(Goldschlaget et al. 2011)
	Horse	<b>Spontaneous</b> tendon and ligament injuries	(Lange-Consiglio et al. 2012; 2013b; 2013c)
	Pig	Myocardial ischemia	(Kimura et al. 2012)
AF	Sheep	Diaphragmatic repair with graft	(Fuchs et al. 2004; Turner et al. 2011)
		Prenatal tracheal reconstruction with scaffold	(Kunisaki et al. 2006b; Gray et al. 2012)
		Diaphragmatic repair	(Kunisaki et al. 2006c)
		Prenatal treatment with lentiviral transduced cells	(Shaw et al. 2011)
		Prenatal cell-based heart valves implantation	(Weber et al. 2012)
		Tendon injuries with nucleofected cells	(Colosimo et al. 2013a)
	Swine	Cardiac ischemia	(Sartore et al. 2005)
		Myocardial infarction in mouse	(Peng et al. 2014)
	Horse	<b>Spontaneous</b> decubitus ulcers with PRP	(Iacono et al. 2012c)
UCB	Horse	Intra-articular injection	(Carrade et al. 2011)
		<b>Spontaneous</b> tendinitis of superficial digital flexor tendon	(Kang et al. 2013)
		<b>Spontaneous</b> tendon and ligament disorders	(Van Loon et al. 2014)

	Dog	Spinal cord injury	(Lim et al. 2007; Park et al. 2011)
		Diaphyseal defect in the radius	(Jang et al. 2008)
		Bone regeneration in ectopic implantations	(Byeon et al. 2010)
		Segmental bone defects	(Kang et al. 2012)
WJ/UCM	Swine	Transplantation into rat brains	(Weiss et al. 2003)
		Allogeneic engraftment in the neonatal intestine	(Miller et al. 2012)
	Caprine	Skin wounds	(Azari et al. 2011)
		Skin wounds in rat	(Pratheesh et al. 2014)
	Horse	Intra-articular injection	(Carrade et al. 2011)
	Dog	Segmental bone defects	(Kang et al. 2012)
		Spinal cord injuries	(Ryu et al. 2012)