



Molecular Mechanisms of Cardiogenesis and PERHAPS of Cardiovascular Regeneration

VO SS2022 7. 4. 2022

Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr. **Georg Weitzer**
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You find the lecture on my homepage /
Sie finden die Vorlesung und Lernunterlagen auf meiner Homepage unter dem URL

<http://homepage.univie.ac.at/georg.weitzer/>

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Central Hypothesis - on which this lecture is based:

Understanding how molecular mechanisms contribute
to the development,
to the function,
to homeostasis,
to various diseases,
to ageing, and finally
to failure

of the heart, will help to understand the molecular mechanisms which contribute
to the regeneration of the heart. – and perhaps might be harnessed for therapy.

Credit: The Olson LAB at UT Southwestern, Texas

Mending broken hearts: cardiac development as a basis for adult heart regeneration and repair.

Xin M¹, **Olson EN**, Bassel-Duby R. [Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol.](#) 2013 Aug;14(8):529-41. doi: 10.1038/nrm3619. Epub 2013 Jul 10.

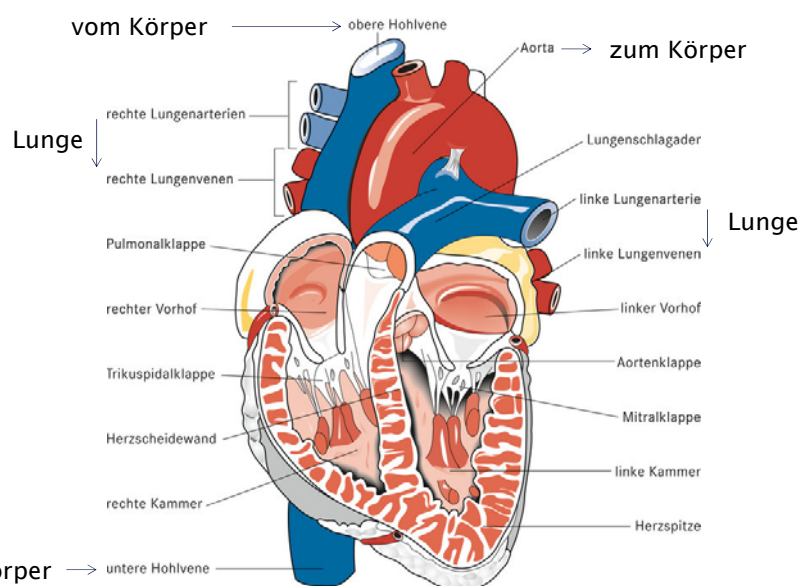
Inhalt / Content

- Entstehung, Anatomie und Funktionsweise des Herzens
 - Aufbau und Funktionsweise des Herzens
 - Entstehung des Herzens im Laufe der Embryogenese
 - Molekulare Regulation der Herzentstehung und Homöostase
- Die Stammzellen des Herzens
- Genetische (und epigenetische) Veränderungen, die zu Erkrankungen des Herzens führen und auf die Funktion der Stammzellen verweisen
- Stammzelltherapie des Herzens

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Aufbau des Herzens / Composition of the heart



Reizleitungssystem des Herzens / Cardiac pacemaker system

Ventrals Ansicht / view

Sympathische und Parasympathische Nervensystem

Sinusknoten

Bachmanns Bündel

Atrio-Ventrikulärknoten

Hiss-Bündel

Purkinje-Fasern

Nature Reviews | Molecular Cell Biology

[Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol.](#) 2013 Aug;14(8):529-41. doi: 10.1038/nrm3619. Epub 2013 Jul 10.
Mending broken hearts: cardiac development as a basis for adult heart regeneration and repair.
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Die Versorgung des Herzens mit Blut / the supply of the heart with blood via the coronary arteries / Rechte und linke Herzkranz Arterie

Ventrals Ansicht (von vorne)

Das Herz von unten = dorsal (hinten)

obere Hohlvene

untere Hohlvene

Pulmonalvenen

große Herzvene

Arteria circumflexa der linken Kranzarterie

Coronarsinus

rechte Kranzarterie

hinterer absteigender Ast (PDA)

Marginalarterie der rechten Kranzarterie

Aorta

Vena cava superior

Pulmonararterie

linke Herzkranzarterie

Quelle: **Herzinfarkt**, Primar Dr. Georg Gaul Verlag Holzhausen GmbH, www.verlagholzhausen.at

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Aufbau des Säugetierherzens und die darin vorkommenden wichtigsten Zelltypen

Ventrale Ansicht

Quellen:

- Erstes Herzfeld = Laterales Mesoderm
- Zweites Herzfeld = Rachen Mesoderm
- Craniale Neuralleistenzellen
- Proepicardiales Organ
- Mesangioblasten der Aorta
- Knochenmarksstammzellen (?)

↓

- Epikardium
- Myokardium
- Endokardium
- Herzklappen (4*)

↓

- Schrittmacherzellen
- Atriale Kardiomyozyten
- Ventrikuläre Kardiomyocyten
- Kardiale Fibroblasten
- Endothelzellen, glatte Muskelzellen
- Telozyten, Perizyten
- Mastzellen, Makrophagen, Treg cells
- Herzstammzellen

* Pulmonic valve not seen

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[Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol. 2013 Aug;14\(8\):529-41. doi: 10.1038/nrm3619. Epub 2013 Jul 10. Mending broken hearts: cardiac development as a basis for adult heart regeneration and repair. Xin M¹, Olson EN, Bassel-Duby R.](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrm3619)

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Die verschiedenen Zelltypen des Herzens / the different types of heart cells

Early cardiac mesoderm

- Endocardial progenitors → Endothelial cells
- Cardiac stem cells → Epicardial progenitors → Smooth muscle cells, Cardiomyocytes
- Cardiac stem cells → Muscle progenitors → Cardiomyocytes
- Cardiac stem cells → Cardiac progenitors → Vascular progenitors → Fibroblasts, Conduction system cells

Many different types of muscle cells

2022: Abstammungshypothese, bereits überholt. Modified from Alessandra Morettis Homepage: <http://www.med1.mri.tum.de/ru/node/169>

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Die zelluläre Zusammensetzung des Herzens /

The cellular composition of the heart

- Das Herz besteht aus ca. 20 verschiedenen Zelltypen
- ~ 20% davon sind Kardiomyozyten; diese nehmen 70 - 80% des Raumes ein
- > 50% sind Fibroblasten, diese nehmen nur ~ 20% des Raumes ein
- ~30% andere Zelltypen
- Häufigkeit der Herzstammzellen: 1:30.000 -1:500.000

1. take home message:

There are at least 20 different types of cells in the heart,
and only 20% are cardiomyocytes.

Entstehung, Anatomie und Funktionsweise des Herzens

- Aufbau des Herzens
- **Funktionsweise des Herzens / Mode of operation**
- Entstehung des Herzens
- Molekulare Regulation der Herzentstehung und Homöostase



Funktionsweise des Herzens / Mode of operation

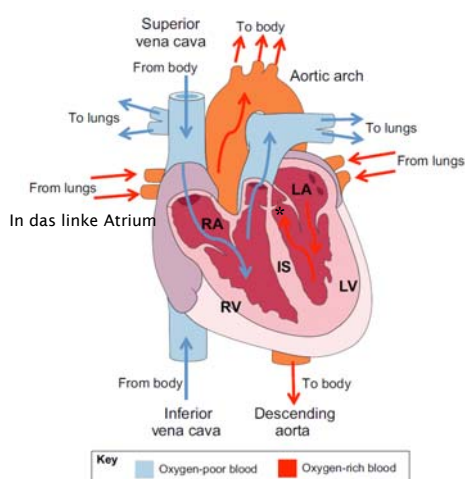


Fig. 1. The adult mammalian heart. The adult mammalian heart is made up of four chambers: the right and left ventricles (RV and LV) and right and left atria (RA and LA). The ventricles are separated by the interventricular septum (IS).

The vena cava and the aorta carry the flow of blood to and from the heart, respectively. Blood low in oxygen (blue arrows) from the different tissues is collected into the right atrium via the superior and inferior vena cava and flows to the lungs through the right ventricle. Oxygenated blood (red arrows) from the lungs flows into the left atrium and is pumped into the aorta by the left ventricle.

This system allows oxygenated and non-oxygenated blood to be completely separate.

* Hinter Lungenarterie vorbeigehend

Abbildung aus :<http://dev.biologists.org/content/143/8/1242>

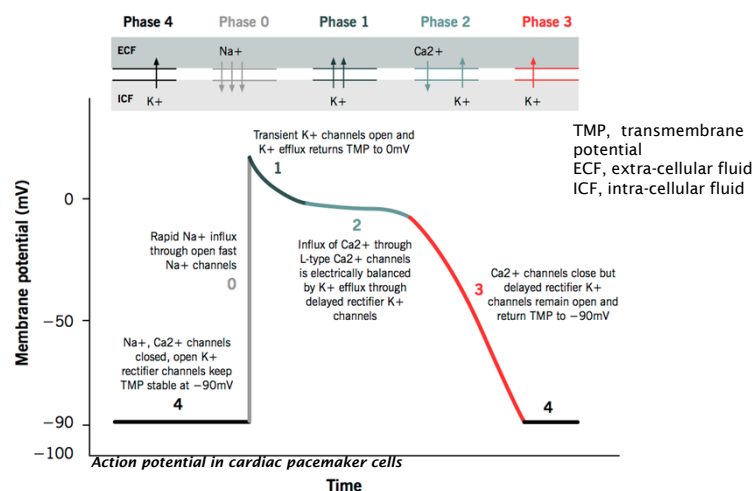
Link to Youtube lecture: <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/health-and-medicine/circulatory-system/circulatory-system-introduction/v/flow-th>



Die Herzmuskelzellenkontraktion in einer einzelnen Zelle betrachtet:

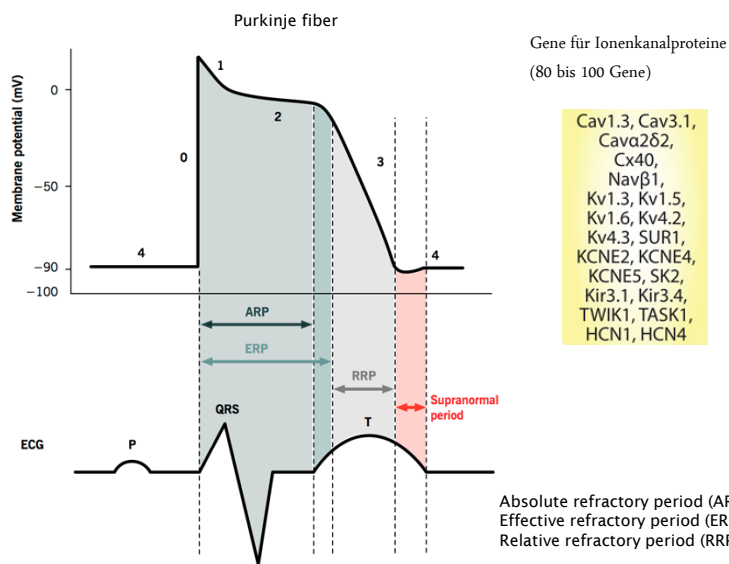
Action potential of cardiac muscles

Grigoriy Ikonnikov and Eric Wong

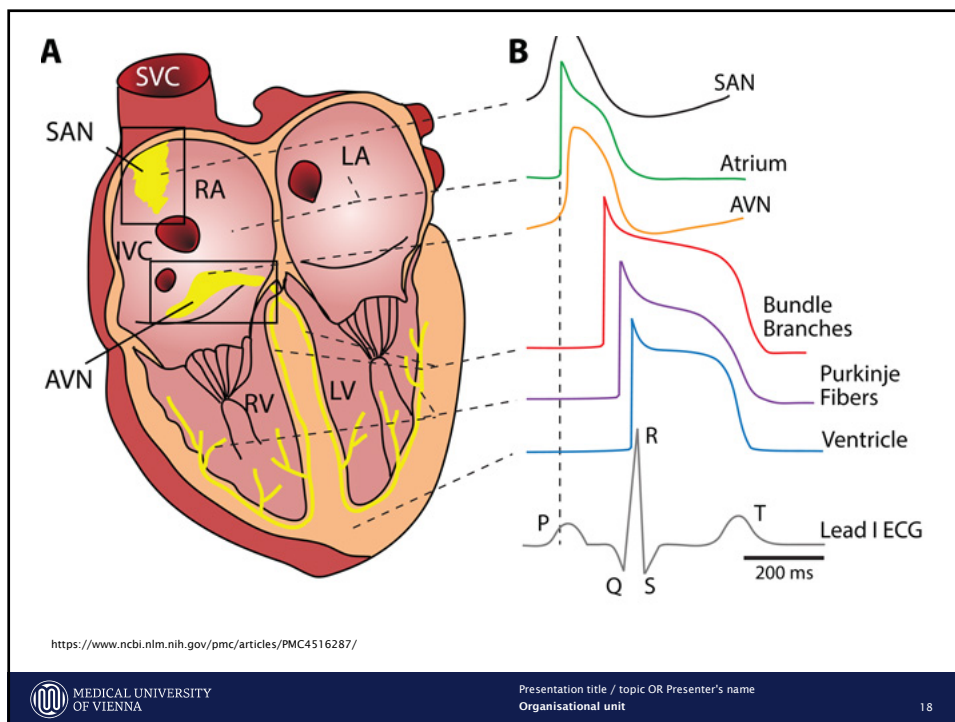
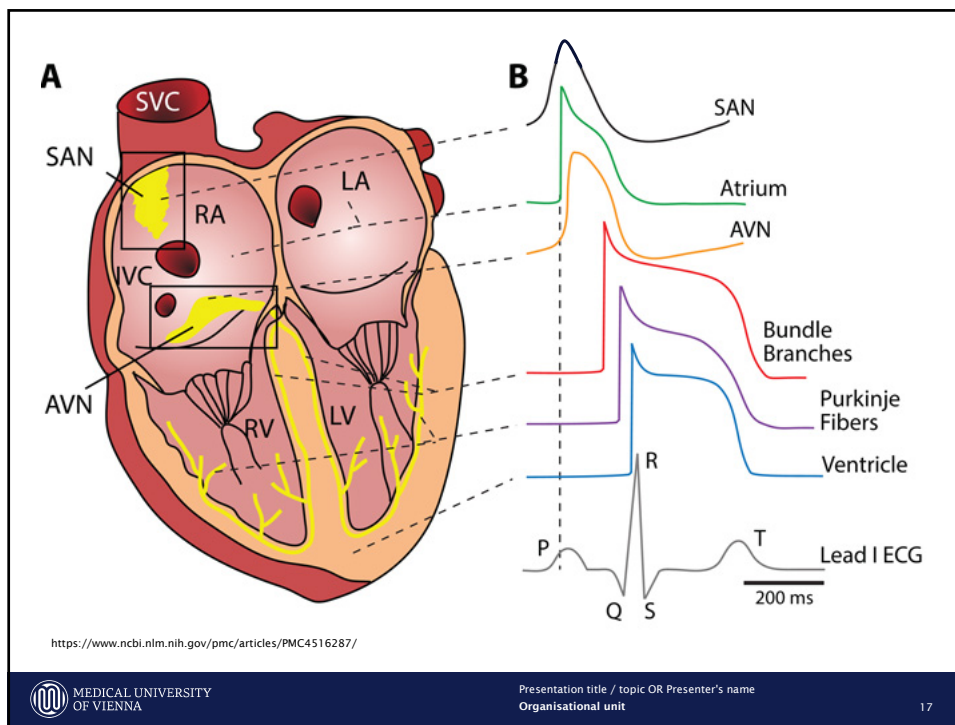


Ruhephase (4) – Depolarisation (0) - Frühe Repolarisation (1) – Ruhephase (2) - Repolarisation (3)

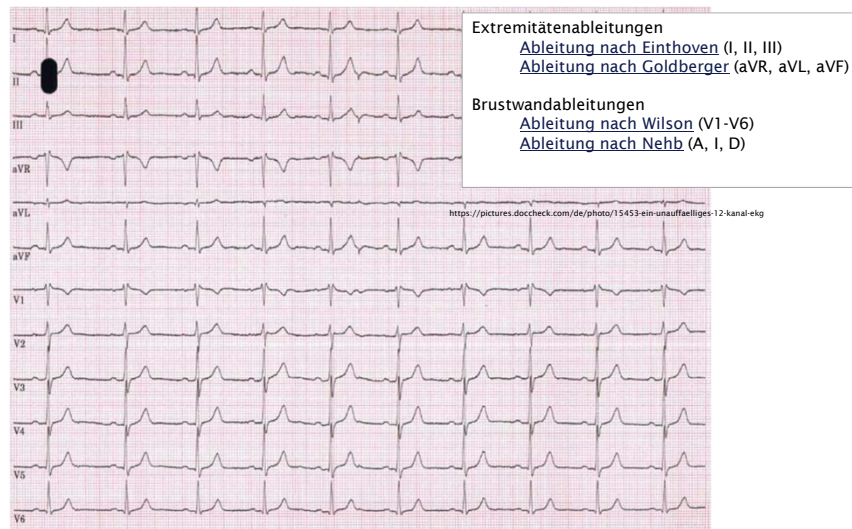
Zusammenhang zwischen Aktionspotentialen und EKG



<http://www.pathophys.org/physiology-of-cardiac-conduction-and-contraction/>



Wenn alle Zellen des Herzens zusammenwirken



Zusammenhang zwischen Herzbewegungen und Elektrokardiogramm ([link zu Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3b-YhZmQu8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3b-YhZmQu8))

2. take home message:

1. There are at least 80 different genes expressed in various cardiomyocytes which are responsible for the individual action potentials of the different types of cardiomyocytes, and
2. The ECG is the sum of all individual action potentials of all contracting cells.

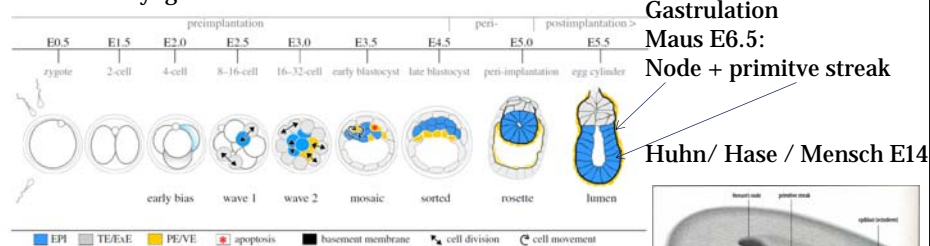
Entstehung, Anatomie und Funktionsweise des Herzens

- Aufbau des Herzens
- Funktionsweise des Herzens
- **Entstehung des Herzens im Laufe der Embryogenese /
Development of the heart during embryogenesis**
- Molekulare Regulation der Herzentstehung und Homöostase

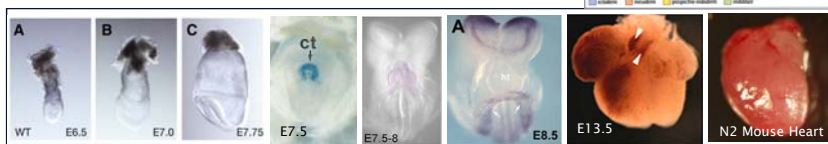
From where do all the different cell types in the heart come from?

Wie entsteht das Herz während der Embryogenese?

Frühe Embryogenese bei der Maus

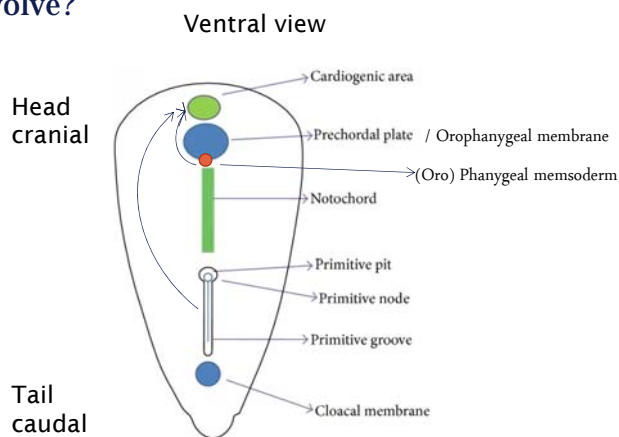


Kardiogenese bei der Maus



doi: 10.1242/dev.01248 doi:10.1006/dbio.1996.0066 10.1016/S0008-6363(03)00248-1 10.1002/dvdy.22449 doi: 10.1073/pnas.0609628110

Wo entstehen die ersten Herzzellen? / Where does the heart evolve?

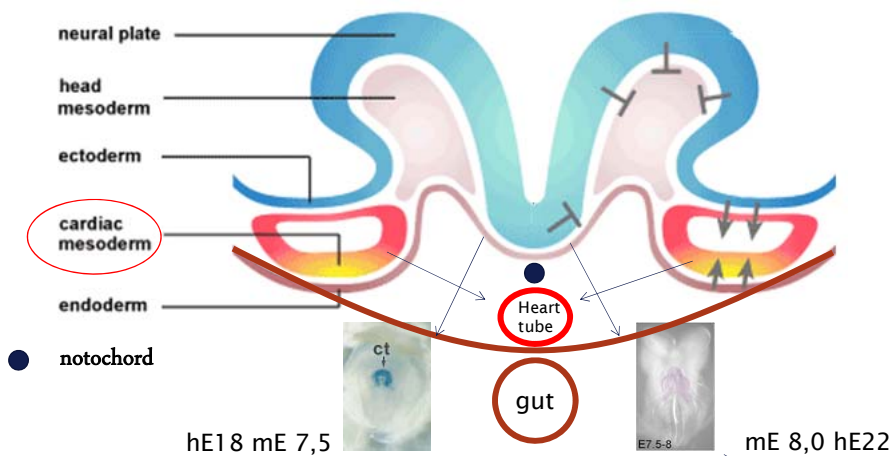


Schematic diagram: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/636375\(1\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/636375(1))

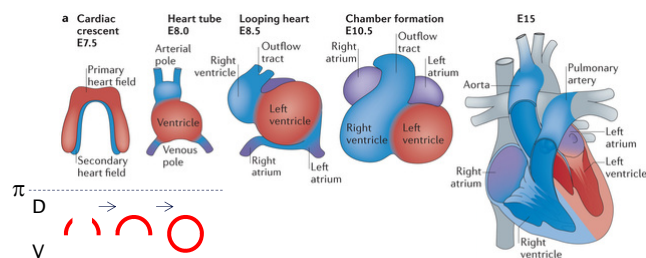
See video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ouge_rVl2aA

Wo entstehen die ersten Herzzellen? / Where does the heart evolve?

Cranial part of the embryo; transversal view



Entwicklung des Herzens während der Embryogenese bei der Maus



Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol., 2013 Aug; 14(8): 529-41. doi: 10.1038/nrm3619. Epub 2013 Jul 10.
 Mending broken hearts: cardiac development as a basis for adult heart regeneration and repair.
 Xin M¹, Olson EN, Bassel-Duby R.

Nature Reviews | Molecular Cell Biology

Article Single-cell transcriptomic characterization of a gastrulating human embryo

Richard C. V. Tyner^{1,2}, Eimh Mahamudov^{3,4,5}, Shota Nakanoh⁶, Ludovic Vallier⁷,
 Antonio Scialdone^{4,7,8} & Shankar Srinivas^{1,2,9}

Received: 28 July 2020

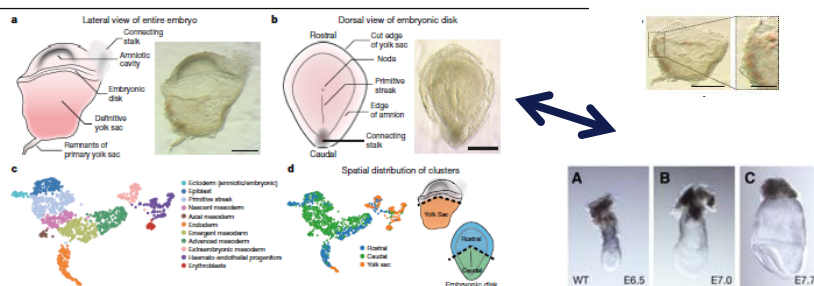
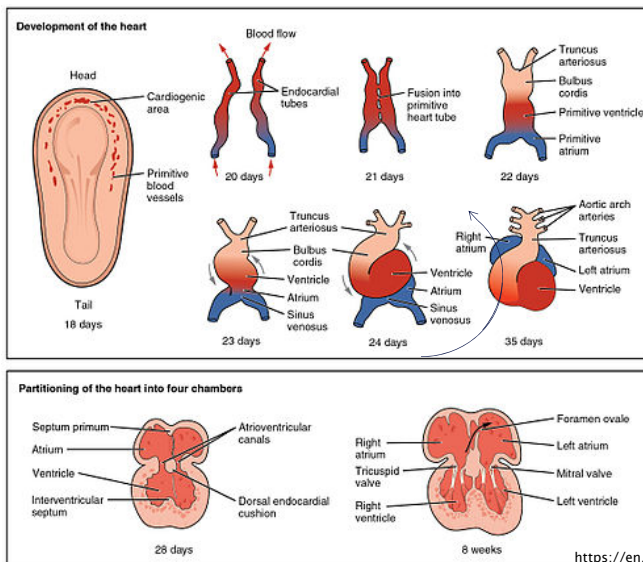


Fig. 1. Morphological and transcriptional characterization of a C57 human gastrula. **a.** Lateral view of the intact C57 human embryo. Scale bar, 500 μ m. **b.** Dorsal view of the dissected embryonic disk showing the primitive streak and node. Scale bar, 500 μ m. **c.** Uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) of all the cells computed from genes with highly variable expression. **d.** UMAP and schematics highlighting the anatomical region that cells were collected from (see also Extended Data Fig. 1b). doi: 10.1242/dev.01248

Cardiac precursors can be identified 16 -19 days after conception.

Entwicklung des Herzens während der Embryogenese beim Menschen



For description of the cartoon see <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-ap2/chapter/development-of-the-heart/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heart_development

3. take home message:

Evolutionary and developmental origin of heart cells

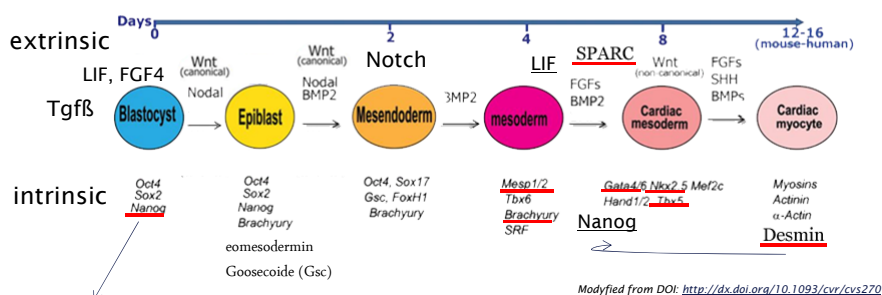
1. Splanchnic mesoderm → first heart field → heart tube
2. Pharyngeal mesoderm → second heart field → poles of the heart tube
3. Neural plate border → cardiac neural crest cells → outflow tract + valves +
+ conduction system
4. Pronethros → epicardia organ → epicardium + coronary vessels.

Entstehung, Anatomie und Funktionsweise des Herzens

- Aufbau des Herzens
- Funktionsweise des Herzens
- Entstehung des Herzens
- **Molekulare Regulation der Herzentstehung und Homöostase /
molecular regulation of cardiac development and homeostasis**

Extrinsische und intrinsische Regulation der Kardiomyogenese?

(Mehr als 400 involvierte Gene bis jetzt gefunden)



Modified from DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/cvr/cvs270>

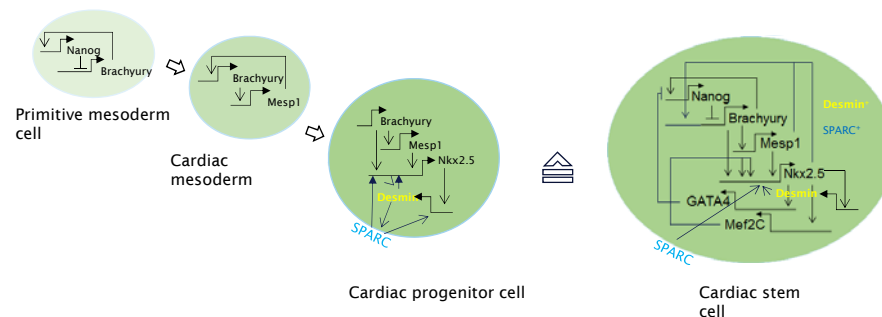
SON-network:

Each TF activates together with the 2 other TFs all 3 genes. → guarantees self renewal

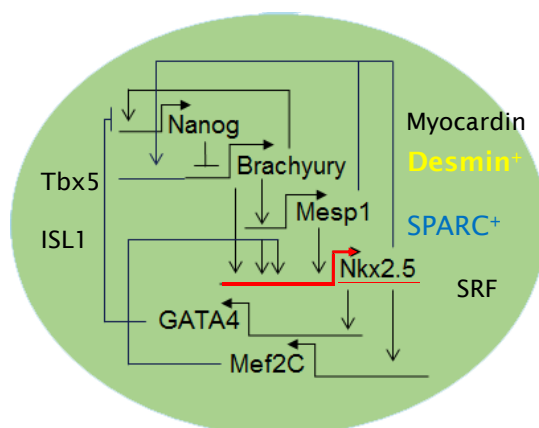
Intrinsic, cell autonomous regulation of cardiomyogenesis

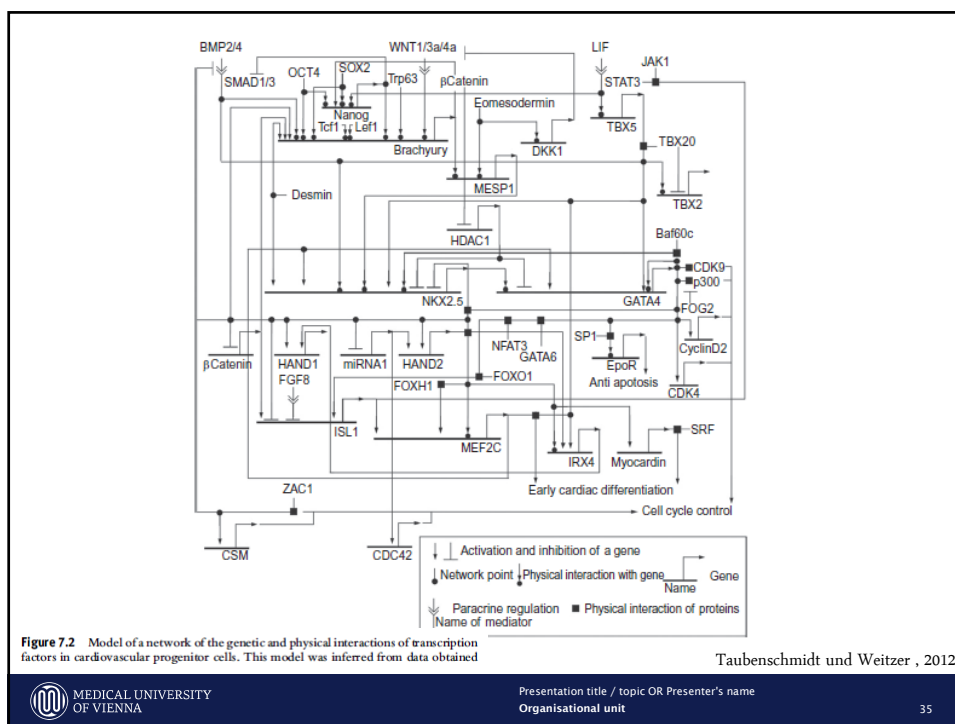
Hirachische Abfolge während der Kardiomyogenese und Netzwerkbildung in adulten Stammzellen

(ein kleiner Ausschnitt des tatsächlichen Geschehens!)



Molekulare Regulation der Herzentstehung und Homöostase





4. take home message:

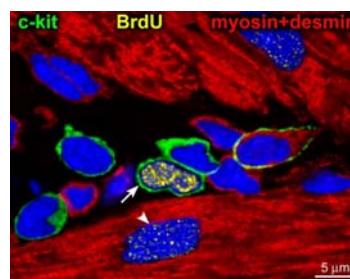
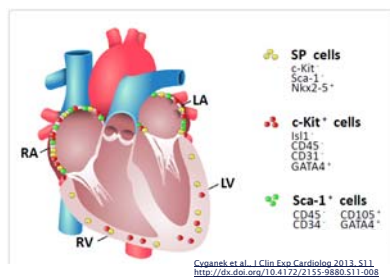
1. At least 400 genes are involved in the regulation of the heart cell development.
2. Nanog, Brachyury, Eomesodermin and Mesp1 are transiently important.
3. Nkx2.5, GATA4, Tbx5, and Mef2C seems to be at the core of the regulation of cardiac development and also during homeostasis in the adult and ageing heart.

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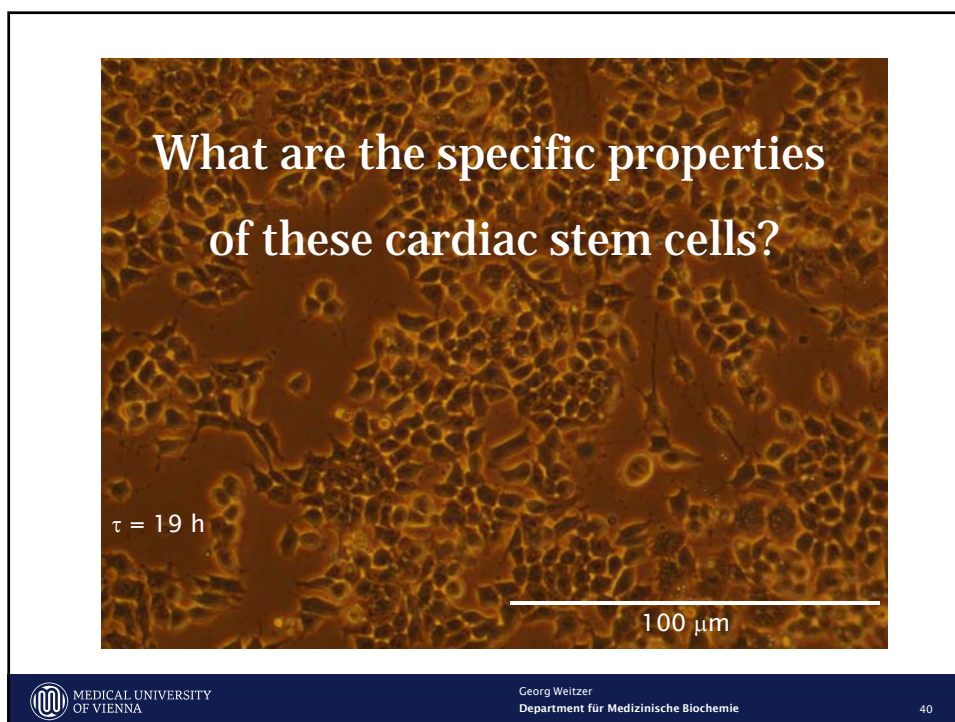
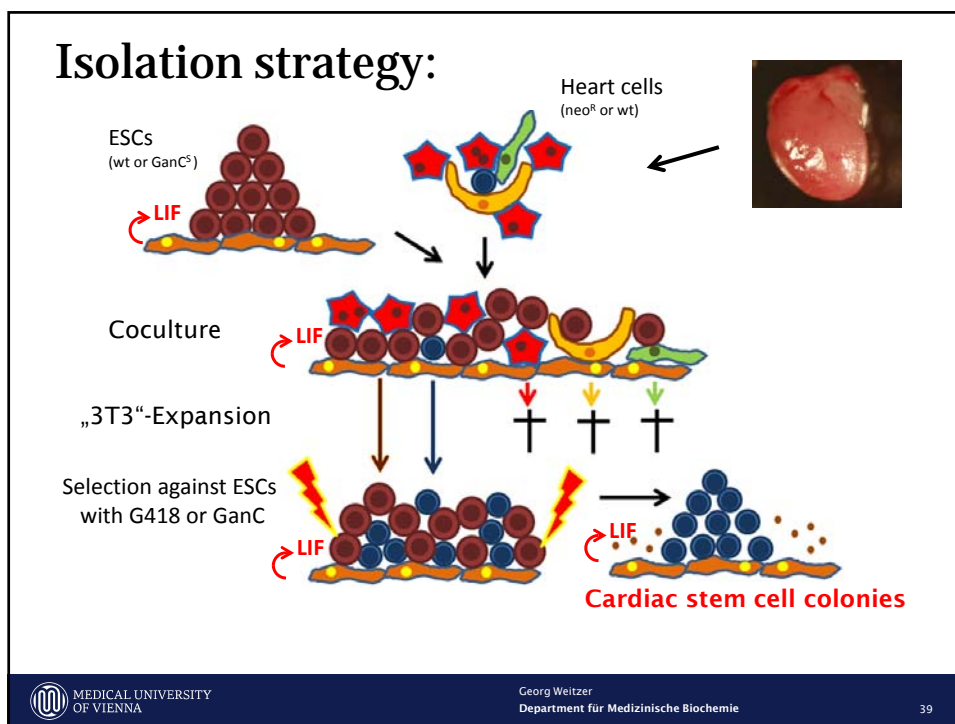
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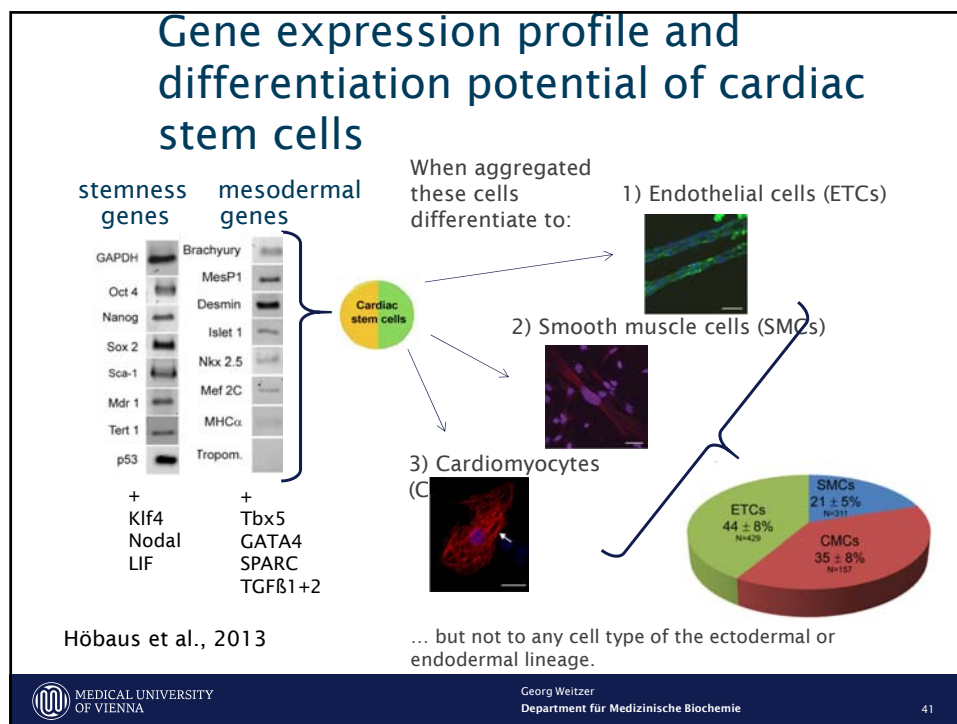
Vorkommen von Herzstammzellen im Herz

1998: Cardiac stem cells in the adult heart



- 1:30.000 – 1:500.000 heart cells is a cardiac stem cell.
- can be only isolated by FACS with surface markers also found in other stem cell populations.
- when forced, they differentiate to endothelial cells, smooth muscle cells and spontaneously contracting cardiomyocytes.
- FACS-isolated CSCs are not expandable. The niche conditions are not known.
- since not expandable ex vivo, they cannot be used for cell therapy so far. -with one exception:
- Cardiospheres: Aggregated populations of heart cells containing CSCs and their niche





5. take home message:

1. Cardiac stem cells do exist.
2. It is still not clear whether they are homogenous or a population of stem cells of different origin and with different properties.

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- **Genetische Veränderungen, die zu Erkrankungen des Herzens führen und auf die Funktion der Stammzellen verweisen / Genetic defects leading to heart diseases and hinting at the function of cardiac stem cells**
- Stammzelltherapie des Herzens



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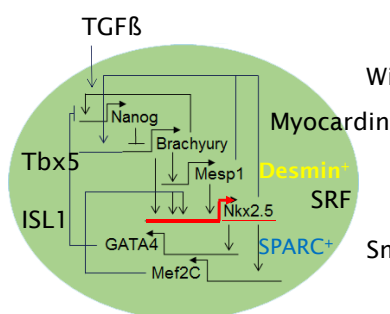
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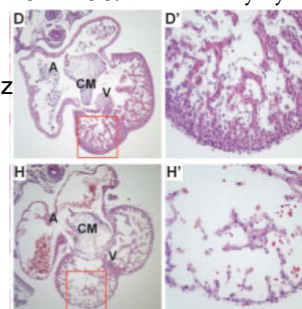
Genetische Veränderungen die zu Erkrankungen des Herzens führen

Embryonal tödlich:

- Nanog and Brachyury (T) KO: no heart at all
- Mesp1 KO: lethal before E9.5, malformation of the heart
- Smad4 heart-specific KO: lethal between E11.5 – E13.5, less cardiomyocytes



Wildtyp Mäuseherz



E12.5 doi: [10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.107.155630](https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.107.155630)

Smad4 KO Herz



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Genetische Veränderungen die zu Erkrankungen des Herzens führen (siehe OMIM Datenbank des NIH)

Fötal bis Juvenil, lebensverkürzend: Tbx5, Nkx2.5, GATA4

- Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF)** can be caused by heterozygous mutation in the **NKX2.5** gene on chromosome 5q35, the **GATA4** gene on chromosome 8p23, or the **JAG1** gene on chromosome 20p12 (Jagged-1 is a ligand of the Notch receptor), TOF is also a well-recognized feature of many syndromes, including the 22q11 microdeletion syndrome and trisomy 21, and has been found to be caused by mutations in several genes, including **ZFPM2** (Friend of GATA (FOG) is a zinc finger protein that interacts with GATA2 and modulates its transcriptional activity), **TBX1** (also DiGeorge syndrome), and **GATA6**.
- Holt-Oram syndrome (HOS)** is caused by heterozygous mutation in the **TBX5** gene on chromosome 12q24. Holt-Oram syndrome is an autosomal dominant disorder characterized by abnormalities of the upper limbs and shoulder girdle, associated with a congenital heart lesion. The typical combination is considered to be a triphalangeal thumb with a secundum **atrial septal defect (ASD)**, but there is a great range in the severity of both the heart and skeletal lesions.



<https://www.google.com/search?q=triphalangeal+thumb+and+holt+oram&client=firefox-b&tbm=isch&bo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-w2hi8vBAHWBZokHTm-AAOQJAJLQ8biw=1716&bih=941#imgrc=YFAANGkUnzH24M>



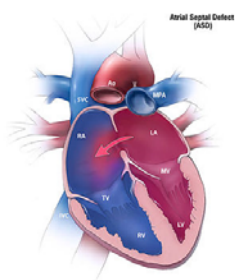
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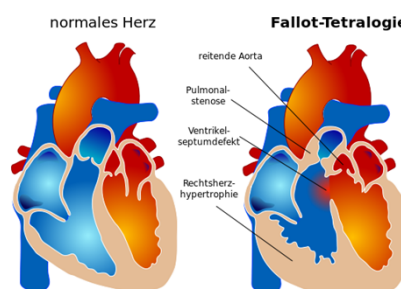
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Holt-Oram Syndrom



Tetralogy of Fallot



Mutations in the Nkx2.5, Tbx 5, and GATA4 genes contribute also to congenital heart diseases manifested during adulthood.

Von Tetralogy_of_Fallot.svg: Mariana Ruiz LadyofHatsderivative work: Bikedoc - File:Bluebaby syndrom.svg, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19210105>



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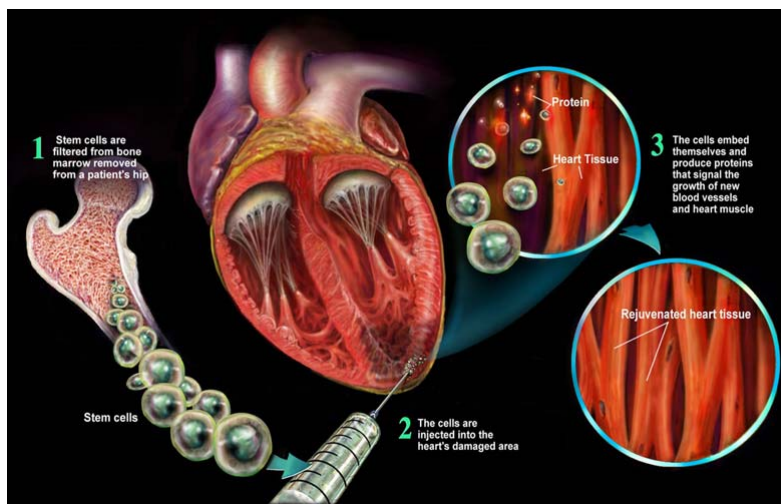
6. take home message:

1. Core transcription factors such as Nkx2.5, GATA4 and Tbx5 are expressed in progenitor and stem cells, are essential for heart development, and the maintenance of the function of the adult heart.

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- Stammzelltherapie des Herzens *Stem Cell Therapy of the heart*

„How stem cell therapy works“ (2016):



<http://adultstemcells.web.unc.edu/files/2013/12/heart.jpg>

Mending broken hearts

Stem cell therapy of acute myocardial infarction (AMI)

- Embryonic stem cells ^{allogenic} → too risky because of tumor formation, ethical issues
- Induced pluripotent cells → too risky because of tumor formation
- Induced cardiomyocytes → one pre-clinical study; too early for evaluation
- Cardiac stem cells ^{allogenic} → not available in sufficiently large quantities
- Adipose tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cells → seems not to differentiate properly but provide growth factors
- Bone marrow stem cells → safe, but not suitable for cardiac regeneration

Meta-analysis of stem cell therapy after AMI



Review
Effectiveness and safety of selected bone marrow stem cells on left ventricular function in patients with acute myocardial infarction: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials
 Bei Liu ^{ab}, Chong-Yang Duan ^c, Cheng-Feng Luo ^d, Cai-Wen Ou ^b, Kan Sun ^c, Zhi-Ye Wu ^d, He Huang ^d, Chuan-Fang Cheng ^d, Yun-Peng Li ^d, Min-Sheng Chen ^{ab*}

Circulation Research

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Cardiac Stem Cell Treatment in Myocardial Infarction
 A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Preclinical Studies
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 http://dx.doi.org/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.115.307676
 Published: April 15, 2016

Bone marrow cell therapy of myocardial infarction in humans

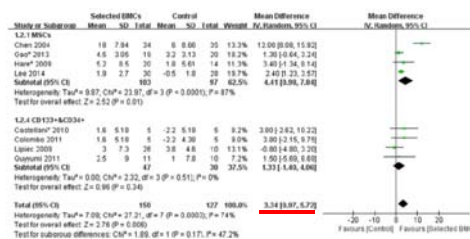
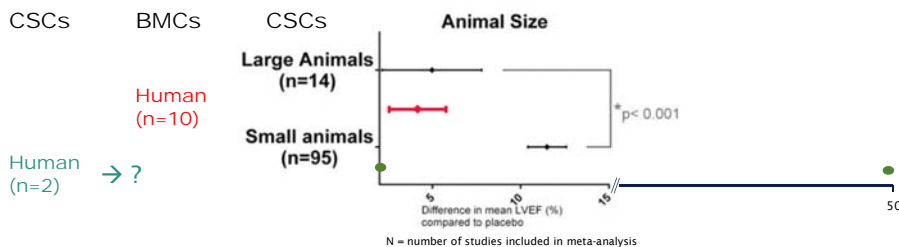


Fig. 6. Forest plot of mean difference (MD) with 95% confidence interval (CI) in left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) comparing different cell types in the included trials. Subgroups were divided into (A) BMCs and (B) CD133+ combined with CD133-.

Cardiac stem cell therapy of myocardial infarction in animals



Conclusion I

- LVEF is normally between 55 and 70% and life-threatening if below 35 to 40%.
- Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) causes a LVEF well below 35%.
- Clinical studies with different bone marrow-derived cell populations resulted in ~ + 3.3% LVEF
- Animal experiments with different populations of cardiac stem cells
- resulted in ~ + 4.7% LVEF (+12% in small animals)

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Conclusion II

Ad Regenerationsvermögen des Herzens:

(oder Warum ich keine Herzstammzelltherapie Vorlesungen mehr abhalte. (2016))

Herzen haben Herzstammzellen.

Herzzellen können sich auch weiter teilen (ca. 0,5-1% pro Jahr).

Herzzellen sind nicht in der Lage durch Teilung Defekte zu reparieren.

Therapeutisch eingebrachte Stammzellen zeigten bis heute keinen, die Qualität des Lebens verbessernden Effekt.

„Herz-Stammzelltherapie“ ist seit 22 Jahren erfolglos.

Derzeitige Hypothese: „Stammzelltherapien“ könnten positive parakrine Effekte auslösen.

Version 3/2022

Review

Heart regeneration: 20 years of progress and renewed optimism

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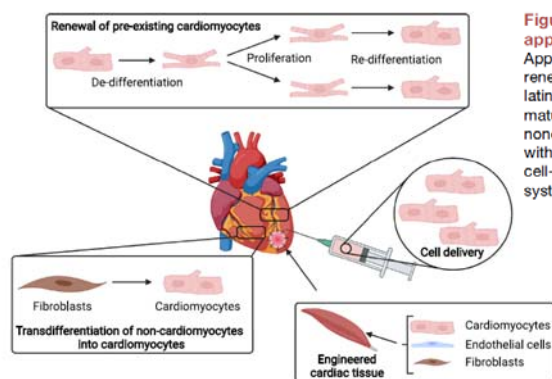
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2022.01.012>

Figure 1. Overview of heart-regeneration approaches

Approaches to regenerate myocardium include renewal of pre-existing cardiomyocytes by stimulating de-differentiation and proliferation of existing, mature cardiomyocytes, transdifferentiation of noncardiomyocytes into cardiomyocytes such as with gene-therapy methods, and delivery of stem-cell-derived cardiomyocytes either as an injectable system or as a tissue-engineered patch.

Content of the review

Lesson 1:

Mammalian adult cardiomyocytes can re-enter the cell cycle 0.5-1%

Lesson 2:

Multiple models reveal mechanisms for successful heart regeneration Only small animals

Lesson 3:

Adult stem cells do not participate in cardiomyocyte regeneration Most likely but no final proof

Lesson 4:

Multiple approaches can lead to new cardiomyocytes for failing hearts trivial

Lesson 5:

Important barriers to human therapy are being addressed by fundamental research trivial

7. take home message

1. Currently CSCs are not superior to BMCs in large animals (and humans).
2. No cell type can increase the quality of life after acute myocardial infarction.
3. Hence alternative strategies should be evaluated.

The question we ask in our research group at the Max Perutz Labs:

Why have cardiac stem cell be maintained during evolution in mammals if they do not contribute to heart repair?

First evident mammal: *Juramaia sinensis*
Late Jurassic, 160.89 – 160.25Ma



What are the roles of cardiac stem cells in homeostatic adult and ageing heart?

What is the purpose of CSCs in the adult heart if not the replenishment of the myocardium by proliferation and differentiation?

What is the transcriptional control of the balance between self-renewal and cardiomyogenesis?

Scientific Interest:

The homeostasis of cardiac stem cells and the molecular mechanisms which contribute to the regulation of cardiomyogenesis and homeostasis in the adult heart.

General Aim of Research:

is to understand the role of cardiac stem cells in the healthy, aging and diseased heart
- and as a surplus -
to possibly contribute to new therapies of acute and chronic heart diseases.

Specific Aim of Research:

is to understand the transcriptional regulation of the balance between self-renewal and differentiation of cardiac stem cells by two *non-transcription factor* proteins, desmin and SPARC – during homeostasis, in adulthood, and in ageing.

The End

You find all slides and the cited review
on my homepage at

<https://homepage.univie.ac.at/georg.weitzer/>