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박 사 학 위 논 문

The Role of Platelet Rich Plasma in Wound Healing

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The Role of Platelet Rich Plasma in Wound Healing

지도교수 김 상 현

이 논문을 박사학위 논문으로 제출함

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감사문

이번 논문을 제출하기까지 바쁘신 가운데에도 많은 가르침을 주신 김상현 지도교수님과 심사위원을 맡아주신 황재석 교수님, 김준형 교수님, 김성애 교수님, 문성수 교수님께 진심으로 감사의 마음을 드립니다.

부족한 시간을 쪼개어 논문에 대한 고민과 조언을 아끼지 않았던 교수님들과 연구팀에게도 고마운 마음을 전합니다.

항상 저에게 힘이 되어 주시고 든든한 지원군이 되어 주는 가족들에게 이 논문을 바칩니다.

2020년 2월

박 지 은

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1. Introduction

The prevalence of diabetes among adults aged 30 years or older was 13.7% (4.8 million adults), in 2014, and incidences of diabetes-related complications were also found to be on the rise (1). Diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) is one of among the major complications in diabetes, and it is predicted that DFU affect about 3% of all diabetic patients (2). The conventional treatment methods for DFUs such as glucose control, infection control, pressure redistribution and local wound care are costly and require patients to be hospitalized for long periods of time, in several departments (3). Therefore, there is a necessity for new and effective treatment strategies to heal ulcerous lesions. As DFUs are often refractory to conventional treatments and have recently been tried to treat with various growth factors and low-level light therapy (4-6).

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) containing predominantly platelets and various growth factors has increasingly been used to heal chronic ulcerous wounds including burn injury and chronic lower leg ulcers (7-9). Therefore, we enrolled 10 patients with DFU and added PRP treatment to conventional treatment for ulcer lesions. We investigated the effect of PRP as an alternative treatment for DFU, and evaluated the correlation between the various factors affecting DFU treatment.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study design and subjects

We recruited 10 patients with DFU, from April 2013 to August 2015. The institutional review board of our hospital approved the study protocol (2012-12-285). Among the Wagner's classification of grade 1 DFU patients, to analyze the correlation between ulcer depth and treatment effect, we divided the patients into four grades, according to the ulcer depth.

2.2. PRP preparation and application for DFU

PRP was prepared from 10-12 ml volume of the patients' own blood collected using a commercial kit (MyCells Autologous Preparation kit®, Holon, Israel) and centrifuged at 2500 rpm for 7 minutes. Prior to the application of PRP, necrotic tissues or eschars were debrided using a scalpel. Activated PRP was applied to the wound in a liquid or gel form, according to the wound condition, followed by a foam dressing (Allevin®, Smith and Nephew, Huntingdon, UK) placed on the ulcer for 48h every twice a week or once a week.

2.3. Efficacy and safety assessment

The primary end-point was the time taken for the wound size to reduce by half, while the secondary end-points were the presence of side effects such as pain, burning sensation, and local infection. The

ulcerous wound area was quantified by using Image J[®] software (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA)

2.4. Statistical analysis

The mean and median values were calculated for the pretreatment period, PRP treatment period, and hospitalization treatment period, as well as the number of PRP treatments. Spearman's correlation tests were performed to determine the correlations between DFU grade, diabetic severity, and risk factors, and pretreatment period, DFU treatment period and PRP treatment period, using SPSS version 23.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA).

3. Results

3.1. Patients' characteristics

A total of 10 patients (3 women and 7 men) were enrolled, and their mean age was 56.5 years (Table 1). All the patients had type 2 diabetes, and the mean HbA1c level was 8.52 %. Six of the 10 patients had a history of foot ulcer with amputation.

3.2. Efficacy and safety assessment

The mean and median pretreatment periods (time from the detection of the DFU to the start of DFU treatment) were 106.5 days and 45 days, respectively (Figure 1). The pretreatment period and ulcer grade were negatively correlated but not statistically significantly ($p > 0.05$). That is, shallow wounds tended to be left unattended for long periods. The mean time taken to start PRP treatment after DFU treatment was 15.7 days, and the median time was 5 days. The mean hospitalization period was 26.3 days and the DFU treatment period was 45.1 days. The mean duration of PRP treatment was 29.4 days, and the median was 32 days. PRP treatment was administered a mean of 3 (1-6) times. Through PRP treatment, the mean duration for a 50% reduction in the wound area to be achieved was 16 days. After the start of PRP treatment, the depth of the wound reduced and it underwent epithelialization from the margin (Figure 2&3). No side effects, such as pain, irritation or itching, were observed during PRP treatment. The PRP treatment period tended to be longer with a higher number of PRP

treatments ($p < 0.01$), older age, longer duration of diabetes, higher HbA1c level, and higher number of risk factors, but this was not statistically significant.

The hospitalization period was significantly longer when the duration of diabetes was longer ($p < 0.05$, Spearman's correlation 0.628). The hospitalization period tended to increase as the age, depth of ulceration, pretreatment period, and duration of PRP treatment increased, but not significantly.

3.3. Histopathologic analysis of DFU on before and after PRP treatment

After PRP treatment, inflammatory cell infiltration was significantly decreased and multiple vessels of upper dermis were proliferated (Figure 4). Angiogenesis was confirmed by cluster of differentiation (CD)31 and hypoxia-inducible factor 1- α (HIF-1 α) staining. CD31 staining endothelial cells were prominently increased after treatment. However, in the case of HIF-1 α , there was no significant difference in the degree of staining before and after treatment (Figure 5).

Table 1. Clinical Characteristics of Study Participants

	Mean	Median
Total number (Male/Female)	10 (7/3)	
Age (years)	56.5 (37-74)	
Duration of diabetes mellitus (years)	14.7 (3-40)	
HbA1c	8.52 (6.2-13.6)	
Retinopathy	4 (40%)	
Neuropathy	7 (70%)	
Nephropathy	2 (20%)	
Number of PRP treatments (times)	3 (1-6)	
DFU treatment period (days)	45.1 (4-90)	41
Hospitalization period (days)	26.3 (7-79)	16
PRP treatment period (days)	29.4 (4-42)	32
Pretreatment period (days)	106.5 (7-420)	45
Duration of 50% reduction of the wound area (days)	16.0 (7.5-32.6)	11.7

DFU: diabetic foot ulcer; HbA1c: glycosylated hemoglobin; PRP: platelet rich plasma.

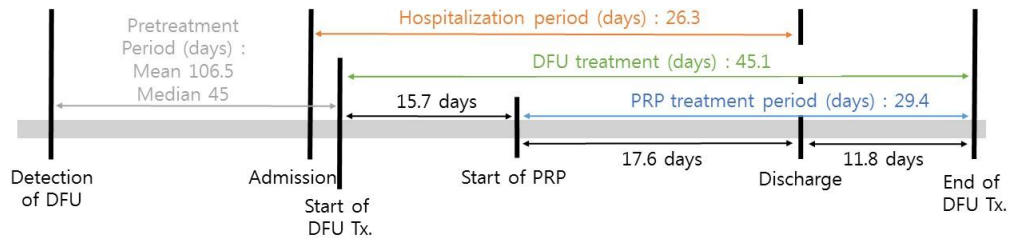


Figure 1. Diagram of the duration and timeline associated with DFU treatment. DFU Tx: diabetic foot ulcer treatment; PRP: platelet rich plasma.



Figure 2. Complete epithelialization after PRP treatment, in patient number 3. PRP: platelet rich plasma.

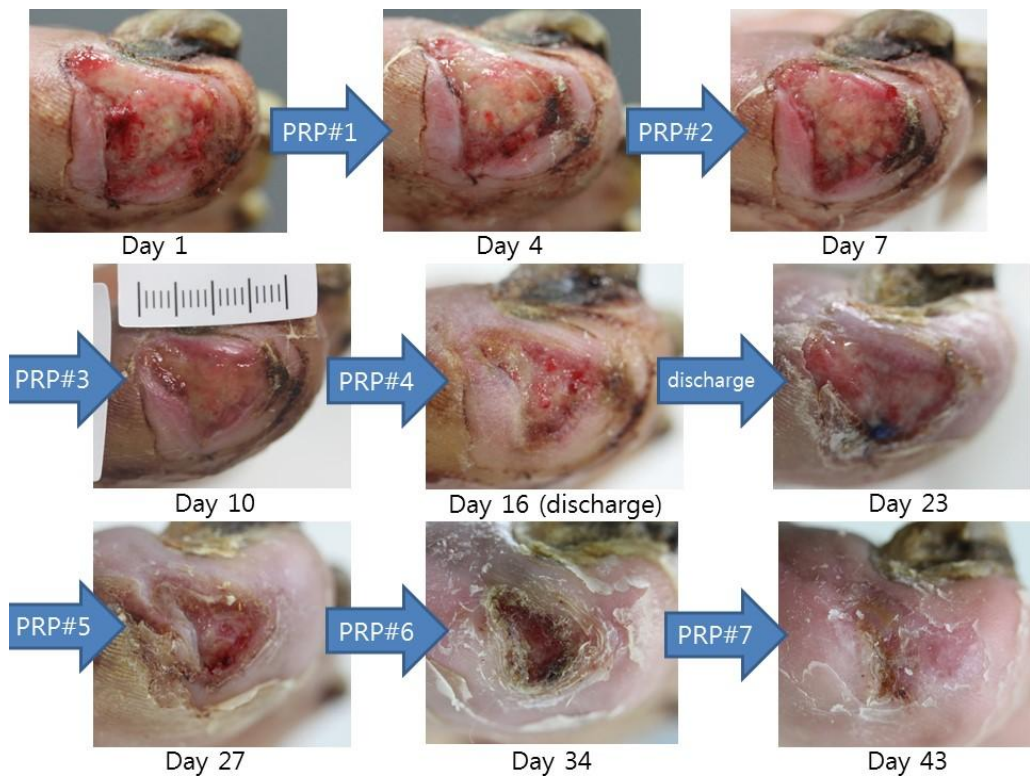


Figure 3. Complete epithelialization after PRP treatment, in patient number. 7. PRP: platelet rich plasma.

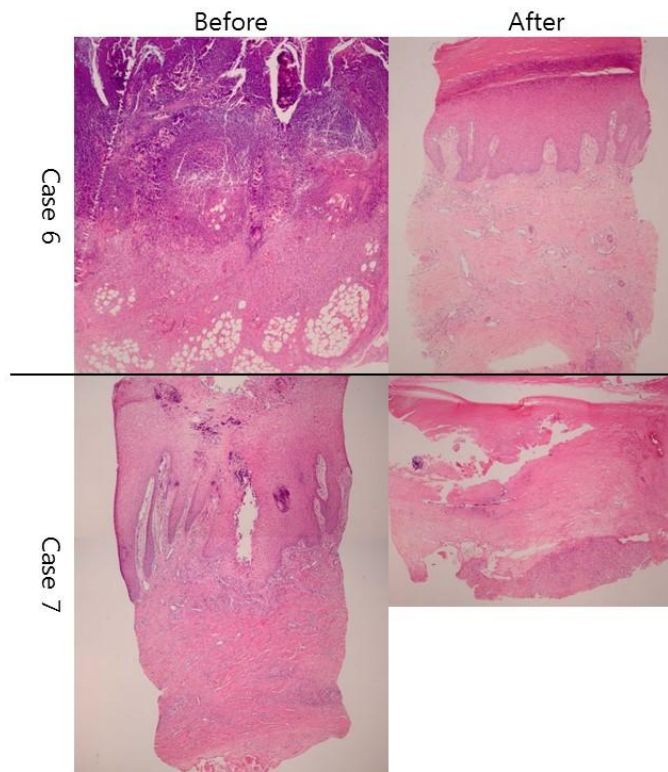


Figure 4. Histopathologic changes before and after PRP treatment(H&E stain, $\times 40$). PRP: platelet rich plasma.

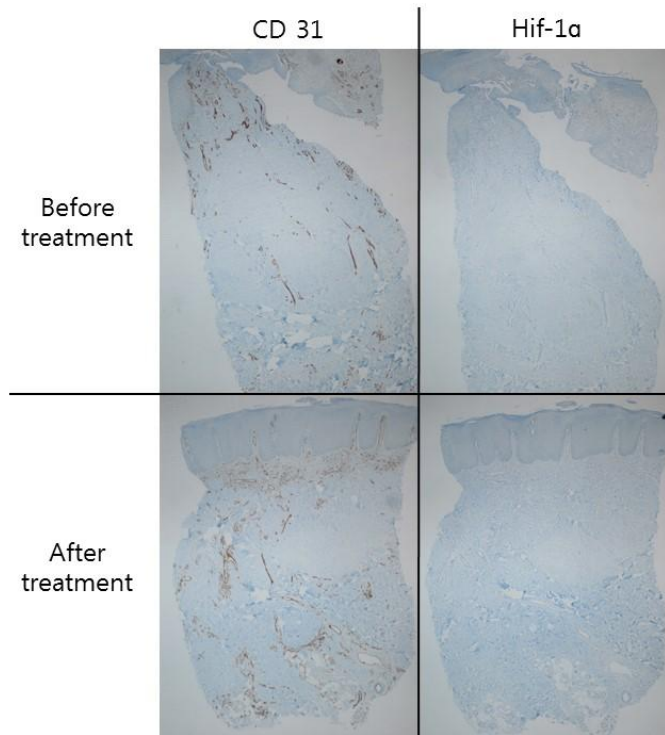


Figure 5. Immunohistochemistry changes of CD31 and HIF-1α before and after PRP treatment(H&E stain, × 40). CD31: cluster of differentiation 31; HIF-1α: hypoxia-inducible factor 1-α; PRP: platelet rich plasma.

4. Discussion

PRP is highly concentrated in platelets (1 million / mm³) which have tissue regeneration functions, such as chemotaxis, cell proliferation, differentiation, angiogenesis, intracellular accumulation, immune control, antimicrobial activity, and remodeling (10,11). The growth factors released from the platelets include the platelet-derived growth factor, transforming growth factor alpha, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and epidermal growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor-1 (10,11). Some advantages of PRP treatment are that it does not cause allergic reactions, relatively inexpensive and can be used for patients who do not want to experience pain or discomfort, and who are reluctant to undergo aggressive treatment (12). Whereas, PRP treatment can be easily administered, and prepared at any time using a centrifugal separator in local clinics.

In particular, diabetic patients usually have combined comorbidity and are known to be interfered with neovascularization including angiogenesis, arteriogenesis, and vasculogenesis (13). Therefore, we investigated the effects of PRPs on neovascularization of DFU wound healing in 10 patients.

In 10 cases, PRP was predicted to reduce the size of the lesion by 50% after 16 days. Most of the treatment was terminated after 11.8 days after discharge. In patients with a callus, the duration of the lesion without treatment was significantly longer due to delayed discovery of DFU, but the duration of treatment was short. Usually, The one of barriers for treatment of DFU is the long term hospitalization, which may increase the socioeconomic burden and decrease quality of life. Previously, Korean population studies reported the mean hospitalization

period of DFU was 61 days (14). In our cases with PRP, the mean hospitalization period was 26.3 (7-79) days and the DFU treatment period was 45.1 (4-90) days. Therefore, this results mean PRP treatment may shorten the hospitalization period by promoting wound healing.

In histopathologic analysis, before treatment, there were irregular epidermal hyperplasia of the epidermis, diffuse dense inflammatory cell infiltration and RBC extravasation throughout the dermis. After PRP treatment, inflammatory cells were reduced but many blood vessels were proliferated in the dermis. It was confirmed by CD31 (15) that it was specifically expressed in endothelial cells. This result means PRP treatment may help healing ulceration with neovascularization. HIF-1 α plays an important role in angiogenesis by promoting the differentiation and function of vascular endothelial cells and is known as an important transcriptional factor on the expression of VEGF (16). HIF-1 α is known to be a master regulator of genes that are expressed by hypoxia and regulated by oxygen concentration and is involved in over 60 gene expression and plays an important role in the expression of several hypoxia inducible genes (17). In particular, the expression of HIF-1 α is lower in diabetic ulcer than non-diabetic ulcer (16,18), and activation of HIF-1 α in diabetic mouse model has stimulated wound healing (19). However, there was no significant change in HIF-1 α before and after PRP treatment. And the absence of HIF-1 α in the tissues of this lesion suggests that PRP does not increase HIF-1 α and PRP itself induces angiogenesis directly but not through Hif-1 α .

The advantage of PRP is that it does not cause allergic reaction with its own blood, it is easy to perform, and it is not painful. However, as a limitation of PRP, blood collection volume is rather high, so blood collection may be difficult if vein condition is bad.

A dirty DFU is debridement followed by various wound healing

preparations. It can be treated with topical variable growth factors, for example recombinant human epidermal growth factor, but most of them are expensive (6). A single growth factor defect will be only part of the complex process of impaired healing, therefore diverse growth factor will be more helpful to complex wound healing process (20). PRP is relatively inexpensive and has the advantage of providing various growth factors. Therefore, In the case of chronic ulcers with small ulcers and shallow depths, prophylactic PRP can be performed in the outpatient setting unless active surgical treatment is needed. The procedure itself can be used for patients who do not want suffering from pain or discomfort in daily life and who are reluctant to aggressive treatment. In particular, PRP can be easily treated at local clinic because it can be easily applied to patient at any time by centrifugal separator. In summary, PRP treatment in addition to conventional therapy for DFU may reduce the duration of hospitalization by promoting wound healing.

There were several limitations in our study. First, we had no control group such as only conventional treatment without PRP treatment because of skip-flap or graft operations recently. Therefore, we used the DFU data in Korean population as control data. Second, debridement or topical treatments might have affected the healing of the ulcers. Third, the number of enrolled patients was small.

In conclusion, patients with DFU were successfully treated by PRP in this study and PRP with various growth factors is expected to be another effective option for wound treatment in DFU. Additional studies are necessary to confirm these hypotheses of PRP for treatment in DFU in a larger population.

5. Summary

Diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) are among the major complications in diabetic patients, and in this study, we investigated the adjuvant wound-healing effect of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) in 10 patients with DFU using PRP prepared from the patients' blood. The mean hospitalization period was 26.3 days, and the DFU treatment period was 45.1 days. PRP was administered a mean of 3 times. The time taken for a 50% reduction in the wound area was 16 days. After the start of PRP treatment, the depth of the wound reduced and it underwent epithelialization from the margin. PRP treatment shorten the hospitalization period by promoting wound healing compared to conventional treatment. In summary, patients with DFU were successfully treated by PRP in this study and PRP with various growth factors is expected to be another effective option for wound healing in DFU.

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The Role of Platelet Rich Plasma in Wound Healing

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(Abstract)

With the increase in the prevalence of diabetic foot ulcer (DFU), the demand for optimal treatment and management strategies has risen. Our study investigated the adjuvant wound-healing effect of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) on DFU. Ten diabetic patients with grade 1 DFU, as per Wagner's classification, were treated using PRP prepared from the patients' blood. The mean hospitalization period was 26.3 (7-79) days, and the DFU treatment period was 45.1 (4-90) days. PRP was administered a mean of 3(1-6) times. The time taken for a 50% reduction in the wound area was 16 days. After the start of PRP treatment, the depth of the wound reduced and it underwent epithelialization from the margin. In addition, PRP treatment may shorten the hospitalization period by promoting wound healing compared to

conventional treatment. In conclusion, patients with DFU were successfully treated by PRP in this study and PRP with various growth factors is expected to be another effective option for wound healing in DFU.

상처 치유에 대한 혈소판 풍부 혈장(PRP)의 역할과 효과

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(초록)

당뇨병 유병률의 증가에 따라 합병증 중 하나인 당뇨병성 족부 궤양의 적절한 치료에 대한 요구도 증가되고 있다. 본 연구에서는 당뇨병성 족부 궤양의 치료에 대해 혈소판 풍부 혈장(PRP)을 이용한 상처 치유에 대한 효과를 확인하고자 하였다. 와그너 분류 상 1단계에 해당되는 당뇨병성 족부 궤양 환자들 10명에 대해 PRP를 이용한 치료를 시행하였다. 평균 입원 기간은 26.3 일 이었고, 족부궤양 치료 기간은 45.1 일 이었으며, PRP 치료는 평균 3회 시행하였다. 치료 16일 후, 상처의 50 %가 치유되었다. PRP 치료 후, 상처의 깊이가 줄어들었고, 상피화가 진행되었다. 또한, 기존의 족부 궤양 치료에 PRP 치료를 추가하면 상처 치유의 가속화와 함께 입원 기간이 줄어들었다. 결론적으로, 본 연구에서는 당뇨병성 족부궤양의 환자에게 다양한 성장인자를 함유하고 있는 PRP 치료를 시행하여 성공적으로 치료함으로써, PRP 기술이 상처 치유의 좋은 치료 도구가 될 수 있음을 보여준다.