

Aussie firm grows human tendons in lab

10 November 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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Australia: Australia based regenerative medicine company, Orthocell, has successfully grown human tendons in a laboratory.

The research was conducted in collaboration between Orthocell, University of Western Australia, Curtin University, Griffith University and University of Auckland and with the support of Australian Research Council Linkage Grant.

Professor MH Zheng, chief scientific officer, Orthocell, commented, "The secret to growing a human tendon graft outside the body, is to culture viable tendon cells and create the exact amount of stimulation to these cells, so that they feel at home and produce the necessary components to form tendon tissue. In the future this could represent a product to replace severely damaged tendons, complementing our exiting Ortho-ATI tendon repair product."

He further said, "we have shown that we can grow and maintain potent and viable tendon cells in culture using the same patented cell growth technology behind Ortho-ATI. The Ortho-ATI technology is not simply relieving pain and improving function, it is facilitating the growth of new tendon tissue and this focused study demonstrates that achievement."

Dr Rocky Tuan, US based expert in regenerative medicine and stem cells, commented that, "The field of regenerative medicine is advancing at a rapid pace. It is exciting to see human tendons grown in the lab that could lead to the regeneration of severely damaged tendons in the future. There is a growing clinical need for effective tendon repair. Orthocell is a leader in this space with their Ortho-ATI tendon repair treatment on the market."

Orthocell has gained regulatory approval for its tendon repair and regeneration product Ortho-ATI, which is licensed in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.