Lessons from (Cardiac) Stromal Cells

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Inflammation is an important trigger in the pathogenesis of heart failure and recognized as a significant therapeutic target. Cardiac fibroblasts, the most prominent cardiac stromal cell type, play not only an important role in the regulation of the extracellular matrix, but are more and more appreciated as inflammatory supporter cells. Further understanding of the strong and reciprocal link between cardiac inflammation and fibrosis is vital for establishing novel treatment strategies for cardiac disease. Lessons can be drawn from mesenchymal stromal cells, known to exert immunomodulatory and anti-fibrotic effects and to improve left ventricular function upon intravenous application in experimental inflammatory cardiomyopathy.

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