

Lecture

RECEPTORS, PROPERTIES AND CONTRACTILITY OF MYOFIBROBLASTS - PHARMACOLOGICAL, SURGICAL AND MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS - A CELL OF GREAT POTENTIAL

Ian L. Naylor PhD, University of Bradford, UK

Introduced by Robert Schleip, MA, München

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Knowledge of the myofibroblast, a cell first discovered in the early 1970's, has, in the intervening 30 year period expanded from being a cell simply found in granulation tissue of experimental wounds to a diverse range of pathological conditions found in the: eye, hand, liver, lung, gut, breast, connective tissue. Furthermore they are found as structural components in tissues as diverse as the liver, uterus, breast, endocervical canal and placenta.

During this time period knowledge as to their biology, ultra structure, immunochemistry and cell culture has progressed and clarified some of their properties. In contrast the pharmacological understanding of this cell is rudimentary.

This talk will try and highlight what is known about the pharmacological properties of this cell and suggest strategies that may be suitable to counter the undesirable contractility of this cell type. Speculation will also be made as to their future pharmacological control.