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Defining the Cardiac Fibroblast:

A New Hope

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Abstract

Cardiac fibrosis remains an important health concern, but the study of fibroblast biology has been hindered by a lack of effective means for identifying and tracking fibroblasts. Recent advances in fibroblast-specific lineage tags and reporters have permitted a better understanding of these cells. After injury multiple cell types have been implicated as the source for extracellular matrix producing cells, but emerging studies suggest that resident cardiac fibroblasts contribute substantially to the remodeling process. In this review, we discuss recent findings regarding cardiac fibroblast origin and identity. Our understanding of cardiac fibroblast biology and fibrosis is still developing and will expand profoundly in the next few years, with many of the recent findings regarding fibroblast gene expression and behavior laying down the groundwork for interpreting the purpose and utility of these cells before and after injury.

Keywords

Cardiac fibroblast; fibrosis; myofibroblast; cardiovascular remodeling

Cardiac fibrosis occurs after heart injury, inflammation, or during aging. The accumulation of extracellular matrix (ECM) results in stiffening of the heart and decreased cardiac function¹. Based on its known role in ECM production, the principle cell type implicated in the fibrotic remodeling process is the cardiac fibroblast. Although defining this cell and its behavior is essential for developing approaches to reduce the adverse effects of fibroblast activation, there is still much ambiguity regarding its origin, function, gene expression, and signaling pathways. In this review, we will focus on recent studies that shed light on the nature of these cells and provide data that fibroblast origins and gene expression may not be as diverse as previously thought. In addition, we outline new mechanisms for studying these cells. The overall goal is to establish a consensus for identifying and describing resident cardiac fibroblast behaviors in the hopes of discovering signaling pathways for controlling fibroblast activities in pathological situations. The majority of the described studies focus on the cardiac fibroblast population in the mouse, but conservation between human and murine heart biology suggests that findings in the mouse may pertain to human fibrosis and remodeling^{2,3}.

Disclosures

None.

Cardiac fibroblast identity

Definition by function

Typically, a cardiac fibroblast is defined as a cell that produces connective tissue. Unlike the connective tissue of bone and tendon, which is organized into regular patterns of collagen⁴, heart ECM is dense, irregular, and composed of collagens, proteoglycans, and glycoproteins^{5,6}. Heart structural components that are produced by fibroblasts include periostin, vimentin, fibronectin, and collagen types I, III, V, and VI (reviewed by Snider⁷). Although fibroblasts are considered the predominant manufacturer of these proteins, several other cell types in the heart can also express these ECM components (Table 1). Basing cell categorization on dynamically and stress-induced genes is a primary difficulty in defining and studying the fibroblast.

Adding to the confusion of understanding the cardiac fibroblast is the use of many different terms including: fibrocyte^{8,9}, telocyte¹⁰, myofibroblast¹¹, protomyofibroblast¹², mesenchymal cell, and stromal cell. Each of these categories reflects a definition that varies depending on the author and demonstrates a lack of consensus regarding these cells. For the purpose of this review we will refer to fibroblasts in an uninjured heart as resting fibroblasts and in an injured heart as activated fibroblasts. We use these terms to be inclusive of the various fibroblast populations. Fortunately, recent studies have provided a refined view of the resident cardiac fibroblast and demonstrate that these cells are responsive to injury and are likely the dominant producer of ECM.

Definition by origin

Developmental biologists suggested many years ago that cardiac fibroblasts have a distinct embryonic origin¹³. Specifically, data in the avian system demonstrated that the epicardium undergoes the process of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) and contributes to cardiac fibroblasts and vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMC)¹³⁻¹⁷ (Figure 1). With the discovery of epicardium specific genes, such as WT1¹⁸, Tcf21¹⁹ and Tbx18²⁰, these initial observations have recently been reconfirmed using lineage-tracing methods in the mouse¹⁹⁻²². Lineage tracing is a heritable method of tagging cells that permits the later identification of the original cell and its progeny²³. With the advent of new mouse lines that permit the genetic manipulation of fibroblasts²⁴, investigators have elucidated several important findings.

First was the discovery that cardiac fibroblasts develop from two origins rather than one. Two independent groups found that populations of fibroblasts residing in the interventricular septum and right ventricle do not form from the epicardium but instead have an endothelial origin, constituting roughly 20% of the myocardial resident fibroblasts^{25,26}. Second, in contrast to being a stochastically determined cell population, recent findings demonstrate that differentiation of the cardiac fibroblast requires specific signals. We found that two unrelated genes are essential for cardiac fibroblast formation. Disruption of expression of either Tcf21, a bHLH transcription factor, or PDGFR α , a receptor tyrosine kinase, results in loss of epicardial-derived ventricular fibroblasts^{19,21}. In the absence of either of these two genes, not only is there a lack of fibroblasts, but also the expression of ECM components in

the left ventricle is disrupted. These data suggest that there are no alternative sources for fibroblasts during developmental stages. It remains to be determined if these same genes impact the developmental program of endocardial-derived fibroblasts. Additionally, these data demonstrate that the cardiac fibroblast is not a default lineage and that EMT-derived fibroblast progenitors are the dominant cell type resulting in the resident cardiac fibroblast population.

The use of genetic marking systems to follow the resident cardiac fibroblast lineage after injury has also cast doubt on the likelihood that circulating^{27,28}, endothelial²⁹, hematopoietic⁹, or epicardial^{30–32} cells contribute significantly to fibrotic remodeling after injury^{25,26,33}. Following pressure overload, the endocardial- and epicardial-derived fibroblasts appeared to respond similarly in regard to gene expression and proliferation. Additionally, the combination of these two fibroblast populations accounted for nearly 100% of the matrix producing cells^{26,34}. In one instance, a *Col1a1* transgenic reporter mouse³⁴ was used to identify the ECM producing cell population²⁶. Cell lineage tracing techniques, bone marrow chimeras, and parabiosis also failed to identify a significant contribution of other cell lineages to the expanding fibroblast population^{25,26}. Although both of the aforementioned studies utilized pressure overload injury to induce fibrosis, similar results have also discounted the contribution of other cell types to the fibroblast pool after myocardial infarction and catecholamine induced fibrosis³³. These studies used lineage tracing to investigate the contribution of endothelial, VSMCs, and hematopoietic cells to the expanding, activated fibroblast population and found little to no evidence for these cell types giving rise to fibroblasts. These experiments also demonstrated that the majority of the responding matrix producing cells were resident fibroblasts³³. Taken together, these recent publications suggest that resident fibroblasts account for the majority of activated fibroblasts that respond to injury in the mouse heart.

Cardiac fibroblast gene expression

Heterogeneity

Historically, the fibroblast population has been considered heterogeneous based on protein expression, cell size, ability to proliferate after activation, and developmental origin^{35–39}. Until recently, fibroblast studies have been hindered by the lack of means for identification in vivo, which required the use of in vitro culture. The markers initially available to study cardiac fibroblasts (CD90, Sca1, and α SMA) are indeed differentially expressed by fibroblasts^{26,40,41} leading to the suggestion that resting fibroblasts are an amalgam of cell populations. These ideas were reinforced by the notion that activated fibroblasts also derive from disparate cell types. The new tools available to study fibroblast biology have demonstrated that the fibroblast population may not be as diverse as previously thought. For example, even though cardiac fibroblasts come from two different developmental origins, gene expression analyses observed overlapping genetic profiles when comparing fibroblasts of the two origins either in uninjured or pressure overload conditions. In sham hearts, fibroblasts genes such as *Col1a1*, *Col1a2*, and *PDGFR α* were expressed at similar levels between the two populations of fibroblasts²⁶. After injury, ECM and growth factor expression increases were observed when compared to sham, but there was no significant

difference between the two fibroblast types^{25,26}. Recent single cell analyses of fibroblasts have also demonstrated comparable profiles of gene expression (up-regulation of *Postn*, *αSMA*, *Adam12*, *Lox*, *Wisp1*, and *DDR2*) after activation^{33,41}.

Markers for cardiac fibroblasts

In the past, the markers most often used to identify fibroblasts were CD90 (or Thy1)⁴², discoidin domain receptor 2 (DDR2)⁴³, fibroblast specific protein 1 (FSP1)⁴⁴, Sca1⁴⁵, fibronectin⁴⁶, vimentin⁴⁷, and collagen types I and III^{48–50} (Table 1). Even though FSP1, fibroblast activating protein (FAP)⁵¹, and the fibronectin splice variant ED-A⁵² are upregulated during cardiac fibrosis, *αSMA*⁵³ has been the most commonly used marker for activated fibroblasts.

As mentioned earlier, developmental studies have revealed that transcription factor Tcf21 and receptor tyrosine kinase PDGFR α are required during fibroblast formation and continue to be expressed in adult fibroblasts^{25,26,54}. Possibly because Tcf21 is a transcription factor, it is often difficult to detect by IHC. PDGFR α expression, on the other hand, is readily detectable by IHC but recognizes rare stem cell populations in the heart⁵⁵. Unfortunately, PDGFR α antibodies designed for flow cytometric applications are not robust for cardiac fibroblasts⁴⁰. Recently, we have described a commercially available monoclonal antibody, MEFSK4, which identifies an antigen expressed by PDGFR α ⁺, Col1a1⁺ murine, cardiac fibroblasts. One drawback to use of this antibody is that it also recognizes surface antigens on pericytes and granulocytes⁴⁰. Periostin, an ECM protein expressed developmentally by cardiac fibroblasts but not adult resting fibroblasts, is highly upregulated after a variety of injuries and appears to be a distinguishing marker for activated fibroblasts^{7,33,41,44}.

The use of markers such as collagen, fibronectin, and periostin stem from the functional definition of fibroblasts. As these proteins are secreted, IHC identification of cells expressing these markers can be technically difficult and subjective. Additionally, many ECM proteins are expressed in multiple cell types. For example, collagen can also be expressed by valve interstitial cells, VSMCs, and pericytes^{56–58}.

Cytoskeletal and surface markers, such as vimentin, FSP1, Sca1, CD90 and DDR2, are not secreted and thus can be used to identify fibroblasts directly by IHC or flow cytometry. Unfortunately, these markers are not specific and require exclusion of non-fibroblast cell populations (Table 1). For example, FSP1, originally thought to be fibroblast specific, is found in a limited number of cardiac fibroblasts and is expressed by immune cells²⁶. After both pressure overload and myocardial infarction, FSP1 expression broadens and is expressed by VSMCs and endothelial cells^{26,44}.

Some previously used fibroblast markers, such as CD90 and Sca1, have been recently reevaluated with newly developed fibroblast tools, and these proteins appear to be expressed in a subset of cardiac fibroblasts⁴⁰ (Table 1). Therefore, previous analyses with these markers may have underestimated the resident fibroblasts. The expression of *αSMA*, previously the gold standard for identifying activated fibroblasts, has also been reevaluated. Investigators found that *αSMA* staining identified about 15% of fibroblasts after TAC²⁶ and 35% of fibroblasts after angiotensin II treatment in lesional areas⁴¹. Therefore, studies using

α SMA expression as the sole readout for activated fibroblasts may have underrepresented the activated fibroblast population.

Genetic tools

Mouse lines such as *PDGFR α -GFP*⁵⁹ and *Collagen1a1-GFP*³⁴ are one avenue for reliably observing the resident cardiac fibroblast population (Table 1). These lines have been used to further characterize and validate fibroblast markers^{26,33,40}. Fibroblast specific inducible Cre mouse lines such as *Tcf21^{mCre}*⁶⁰, *Periostin^{mCre}*³³, and *Periostin^{CreERT2}*⁴¹ provide unique opportunities for tracing and genetically manipulating resident and activated fibroblasts. Given the described heterogeneity of fibroblasts, it is surprising that the *PDGFR α -GFP*, *Collagen1a1-GFP*, and *Tcf21^{mCre}* lines were found to label the resident fibroblast population discretely, and this homogeneous cell population uniformly expressed the antigen recognized by the aforementioned MEFSK4 antibody⁴¹. The generation of reporter and Cre lines that specifically label both resting⁶⁰ and activated^{33,41} fibroblasts in the heart will enable research to finally examine the role of the fibroblast, and fibroblast specific genes, during all stages of activation.

Cardiac fibroblast function

Development and resting

Although the above data demonstrate that resident cardiac fibroblasts respond to injury by producing components of the ECM, additional roles of the cardiac fibroblast in uninjured hearts remain a mystery. Without the ability to use genetic tools and well-defined markers, early studies often relied on cell morphology to identify these cells. A common notion was that cardiac fibroblasts comprised a majority of the non-cardiomyocytes of the heart^{61–63}, but we have demonstrated that endothelial cells, not fibroblasts, are the most populous cell type in the human and murine heart⁴⁰.

Although not the major constituent, it is likely that cardiac fibroblasts play an important part of normal heart physiology. In fact, many functions have been attributed to fibroblasts, but these proposed cellular activities are often deduced after in vitro culture and need to be verified in vivo (Figure 1). Matrix degradation, conduction system insulation, cardiomyocyte electrical coupling, vascular maintenance, and stress sensing are all potential aspects of fibroblast cell biology (reviewed in Baudino⁶⁴, Souders⁶⁵, and Snider⁷). Although cardiac fibroblasts are likely to perform these duties, it is unclear if they are the only cells capable of such feats. Certainly, the production of fibrillar collagens during development and disease is an accepted and documented fibroblast activity⁶⁶, but recent data suggests that pericytes and/or mesenchymal progenitors can also produce ECM components in response to injury^{67,68}.

Another example of a purported fibroblast role is insulation of the conduction system. Although a direct role for fibroblasts has not been proven, the best data supporting the idea that the annulus fibrosus buffers the myocardium from the atrioventricular node is the mechanical inhibition of epicardial migration in the avian heart⁶⁹. An epicardial origin for

the cells of the annulus fibrosus has been determined, but other than expression of ECM genes, an insulating role for these cells was not documented^{70,71}.

Given that *in vivo* data designating the predominant roles of resting fibroblasts is lacking, more efforts should be focused on the activities of these cells in non-pathological conditions. A revised understanding of the developing and resting cardiac fibroblast population will further expand our knowledge of cellular processes assigned to fibroblasts.

Cardiac fibroblast activation (myofibroblast)

Because cardiac fibrosis contributes to many forms of heart disease, much attention has focused on behaviors of activated fibroblasts (Figure 1). The first step in such studies involves the ability to identify the cell of interest. In the field of wound healing and cardiac fibrosis, the terms protomyofibroblast and myofibroblast are often used to indicate the subpopulation of fibroblasts that are responsible for tissue remodeling. The term myofibroblast was originally coined to describe a cell that had morphological characteristics of both smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts during skin wound healing⁷².

The first mention of cardiac myofibroblasts was in the 1970s^{73,74}. These cells could be distinguished from resting cells by morphology, including serrated nuclei, increased cytoplasm, microfilament bundles, and well defined endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi complex^{11,75}. Later, skin myofibroblasts were documented to contract collagen *in vitro* and thus provide a unique and essential role in wound repair by providing tension^{75,76}. With the advent of an α smooth muscle actin (α SMA) antibody permitting the identification of these microfilament bundles⁷⁷, myofibroblasts were found in other injured organs^{78,79}. Expression of the microfilament proteins, α SMA, transgelin, or caldesmon became the gold standard for identifying myofibroblasts^{80–82}. Subsequent studies suggested that transforming growth factor β (TGF β) stimulation induced α SMA⁷⁶ and because TGF β also induces collagen production, it was suggested that α SMA could be used to identify collagen producing cells after heart injury. As time passed, these changes in gene expression were considered a process of cell conversion or transdifferentiation into a new cell type.

Given the previous lack of markers and associated difficulty in identifying and studying the fibroblast *in vivo*, analyses were typically performed *in vitro*^{49,83–85}. Notably, these *in vitro* studies may not have appreciated the added mechanical stress caused by substrate stiffness in culture^{49,86}. Researchers observed that fibroblasts in culture fail to acquire quiescent features after stimulation removal, supporting the concept that myofibroblasts were a terminally differentiated cell type⁸⁶. However, these studies did not take into account the mechanical stress from a non-physiological system on these fibroblasts. Thus, saying that fibroblast activation is an irreversible differentiation process may not accurately describe the reversible change in gene expression that occurs *in vivo*.

Recent studies have identified transcription factors that are involved in the functions of activated cardiac fibroblasts. Two of these proteins are scleraxis^{46,87,88}, which is downstream of TGF β signaling and involved in ECM synthesis, and myocardin-related transcription factors (MRTFs)⁸⁹, which are involved in cytoskeletal changes and upregulation of α SMA expression during fibroblast activation. This information suggests

that rather than a differentiation process, the changes in gene expression of fibroblasts after cardiac injury is more likely to be a response to changes in growth factor signaling and an increase in tissue stiffness (reviewed by van Putten⁹⁰). Given recent findings, we would like to suggest a simplified nomenclature from myofibroblast to activated fibroblast. This would broaden the population of cells to investigate after injury and also reflect the other dynamic changes in gene expression, such as proliferation, ROS production and recruitment of inflammatory cells^{25,26,33,41,45,91}.

Alternative cell sources after injury

Contrary to the accepted developmental origin of the resting fibroblast, the origin of the activated fibroblast is historically much less clear and is still debated. As the activated fibroblast was considered a newly differentiated cell type, it was feasible that the cells responding to the injury could come from a variety of sources. Using lineage tracing and the limited tools available to study fibroblast biology, activated fibroblasts were described to differentiate from multiple cell types. Studies suggested that activated fibroblasts differentiated from either endothelial cells via endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition²⁹ or infiltrating immune cells from bone marrow^{9,27,28}. However, these studies relied on lineage tracing using *Tie1-Cre*⁹² and the *FSP1-GFP*⁹³ mouse lines. The recent realization that some populations of fibroblasts derive from an endothelial progenitor could provide an alternative explanation for the presence of endothelial lineages within the fibroblast population. Additionally, FSP1-GFP expression has also been reported in immune and endothelial cells^{26,44}.

Recently, pericytes, mesenchymal cells associated with the microvasculature, have also been identified as a potential source of injury-induced matrix-producing cells. The ablation of Gli1-expressing pericytes resulted in a pronounced reduction in fibrosis, suggesting a role for pericytes in matrix production⁶⁷. Other studies focusing on α V integrin signaling also point to a role for signaling through pericytes in promoting fibrosis after heart injury⁶⁸. While these studies do implicate pericytes as an additional contributor to the fibrotic process, the mechanism of these actions remains unclear. For example, another study identified two populations of pericytes in the heart, type 1 and type 2. They found that type 1 pericytes expanded after myocardial infarction but did not express Collagen type I⁵⁷. Intriguingly, Gli1 expressing pericytes mentioned above comprise only a small portion of the perivascular cell population⁶⁷, suggesting that these cells may serve a role in regulating fibrosis rather than directly contributing to the act of ECM deposition⁹⁴. These initial studies indicate that more data is required before the direct and indirect functions of pericytes during cardiac fibrosis can be elucidated.

Reversal of activation

Generally, it was believed that activated fibroblasts undergo apoptosis and disappear following the completion of tissue repair⁹⁵. For example, fibroblast apoptosis occurs via a TNF α -mediated response in skeletal muscle⁹⁶. In other organs, however, studies indicate that activated fibroblasts have the capacity to revert to a resting fibroblast as determined by reduction in α SMA expression⁹⁷⁻⁹⁹. To study the fate of activated cardiac fibroblasts after injury, a reversible model of cardiac fibrosis was investigated. Angiotensin II and

phenylephrine (AngII-PE) infusion cause rapid fibroblast activation, but upon drug cessation fibrosis recedes. The activated fibroblast lineage was marked using a mouse line, *Periostin^{mCre}*, and the cells were followed over time. After two weeks the marked fibroblasts were still present, but gene expression had reverted back to a resting fibroblast profile³³. Interestingly, these reverted cells were more susceptible to re-activation, similar to a memory B or T cell response. This type of fibroblast reversion has also been observed in liver fibroblasts^{100,101} and supports the idea that activation is more a change in gene expression than a conversion of the fibroblast into another cell type.

Cardiac fibroblast plasticity

There is the current concept that fibroblasts are versatile and can interconvert readily into other cell types, but cellular reprogramming efforts have demonstrated that fibroblast reprogramming is often inefficient^{102,103}, suggesting that these cells may not be as plastic as previously believed. Many past experiments demonstrating fibroblast transdifferentiation were performed in vitro on minimally characterized cell populations.

Nonetheless, recent studies have documented the ability of fibroblasts to convert to other cell types including adipocytes¹⁰⁴, cardiomyocytes^{55,105}, and endothelial cells¹⁰⁶. One example is the description of the cardiac fibroblast colony-forming unit (cCFU-F). A Sca1⁺, PDGFR α ⁺, CD31⁻ population of cells from mouse heart was observed to have long term culture capabilities and could differentiate into cardiomyocytes, endothelial cells, and smooth muscle cells¹⁰⁵. While a similar differentiation capacity of heart resident PDGFR α expressing cells was observed in a recent study, these cells were not identified as fibroblasts and were considered a resident stem cell population⁵⁵. Both of these studies relied on in vitro culture with subsequent transplantation to generate nascent cardiomyocytes. Although evidence for spontaneous conversion of fibroblasts to cardiomyocytes in vivo has not been observed, there are several examples of fibroblast to cardiomyocyte conversion with cellular reprogramming after injury¹⁰⁷⁻¹⁰⁹. The efficiency of this conversion was less than 2%¹⁰⁷ in the area of reprogramming and would need optimization for any practical application.

While the ability of fibroblasts to differentiate into adipocytes has been shown in skeletal muscle^{110,111}, only recently has it been suggested that a cardiac fibroblast progenitor can differentiate into adipocytes¹⁰⁴. It is unclear if fibroblasts themselves can form adipocytes in vivo, but recent data does suggest that a subset of epicardial derivatives contribute to adipocytes that are present in the atrio-ventricular groove and epicardial fat^{112,113}. Finally, although the conversion of vascular endothelial cells into fibroblasts appears to be a minor contribution to fibrosis^{25,26,33}, lineage analysis using a Col1a2Cre^{ERT} mouse line suggests that some fibroblasts may adopt properties of endothelial cells after injury¹⁰⁶.

Conclusion

Recent developments in tools to study fibroblast biology have enabled a more detailed and physiologic understanding of the fibroblast, as most original studies were limited in markers and to in vitro models. Even though cardiac fibroblasts have two developmental origins, these populations respond similarly to cardiac injury and are the predominant fibroblast

source. The term “myofibroblast” was initially used to distinguish between the fibroblast and a new cell type that arose during the fibrotic response. However, recent advances in fibroblast tools have allowed us to gain a better understanding of fibroblast activation, gene expression, and behavior. These data suggest that an activated fibroblast arises from a tissue resident fibroblast and can revert back to a resting fibroblast. While progress is evident in the study of fibroblast biology and fibrosis, there remain key questions to be answered regarding the role of the fibroblast in physiology and disease.

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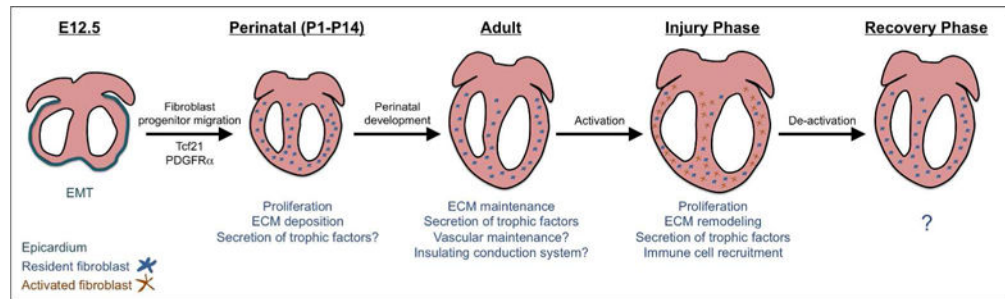


Figure 1.

Murine cardiac fibroblast stages and function. Cardiac fibroblasts are derived from epicardial and endocardial progenitors after embryonic day 12.5 (E12.5). Tcf21 and PDGFR α direct fibroblast development at this stage. Fibroblast progenitors enter the ventricles and proliferate in the first week after birth. It is at this time that fibroblasts begin to deposit and degrade extracellular matrix. In the uninjured adult heart, proposed roles for fibroblasts include secretion of trophic factors, ECM surveillance, conduction system insulation, cardiomyocyte electrical coupling, and vascular maintenance. During the injury phase, fibroblasts proliferate, deposit ECM, and recruit inflammatory cells. Recent data has shown that after the proliferative phase of injury, previously activated cardiac fibroblasts can revert to a resting fibroblast gene profile. EMT; epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition.

Table 1

Published markers for cardiac fibroblasts.

	Method of Detection	E12.5	E14.5 – E18.5	Adult	Injury Phase	Reference(s)
Nuclear	WT1	Ep, CM	Ep, EC, CM	Ep, EC ^{Low}	Ep, P/V, EC	18, 31, 114, 115, 118
	Tcf21	Ep	F, Ep	F, Ep	F, Ep	7, 19, 33, 53, 54, 116
Cytosolic	FSP1	NE	F*, P/V	F*, P/V, EC, IC	F*, P/V, IC, EC	7, 117, 26, 44, 53, 118
	Prolyl-4-hydroxylase	IHC		F, EC	F, IC	26, 107, 117, 119
Cytoskeletal	Vimentin	En	F, P/V	F, P/V, EC	F, P/V	7, 21, 33, 53, 117, 120, 121
	αSMA	Ep, CM	P/V, CM	P/V	F*, P/V	26, 33, 53, 118, 122
Cell membrane	PDGFRα	Ep	F	F, CPC	F	21, 26, 33, 40, 53, 105, 123, 124
	MEFSK4			F, P/V ^{Low} , IC	F, P/V ^{Low} , IC	40
	DDR2	Ep	F*, P/V, En	F, P/V	F, P/V	7, 41, 43, 53, 124-127
	CD90		F*, P/V, IC, EC	F*, P/V, IC, EC	F*, P/V, IC, EC	40, 42, 53, 118, 121, 128
Extracellular	Scal		NE	F*, CPC	F*, CPC	40, 45, 105, 129, 130
	Periostin	Ep	F, P/V	NE	F*	7, 33, 41, 44, 53, 70, 117
	Fibronectin		F, EC	F, EC	F*	7, 33, 46, 118
	ED-A fibronectin		NE	NE	F*, EC	117, 131, 132
	Collagen type I	Ep	F, P/V	F, P/V	F, EC, CM	7, 21, 33, 41, 53, 58, 70
	Collagen type III		F, P/V	F, P/V	F, P/V	7, 41, 133
	FAP	FC, IHC				F