



Supplemental Digital Content 1: Direct contact with fibrocytes increases T cell proliferation in vitro

Cells were obtained from female ICR mice. CFSE-stained splenic T cells were cultured alone, with fibrocytes, or in the upper chamber of a transwell system with fibrocytes in the lower chamber. The cells were incubated for up to 72 hours. At 24 hour intervals, cocultures were processed for flow cytometry with fluorescently labeled antibodies against CD3. Representative plots of flow cytometry show the CFSE results for CD3+ cells. The graph demonstrates that T cells cultured alone demonstrated little proliferation. When cultured with fibrocytes, the percentage of T cells exhibiting proliferation, significantly increased over time. When T cells shared media with fibrocytes but were physically separated in the transwell system, their proliferation was not evident. The representative dot plots demonstrate the cell proliferation at 96 hours of incubation. These results suggest that soluble mediators were not solely responsible for the increased proliferation of T cells. (n= 4 experiments/timepoint), Data are reported as mean \pm SEM * = p<0.05.