



SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S5. Expression of Sox2 in GFAP-expressing cells. (A, B) Rats with MCAO received intracarotid infusion of 1 million monolayer (mono) or 3D spheroid (3D) hMSCs or equal volume of vehicle PBS 24 h after MCAO. Immunofluorescence stain of coronal sections of the brain 3 days after cell transplantation showed that over 50% of GFAP-expressing cells were also positive for Sox2 (A, B), and the proportion of GFAP⁺/Sox2⁺ cells in spheroid-hMSC-treated rats was higher, compared with monolayer-hMSC- or PBS-treated rats [(B), $n=5$, $**P<0.01$]. BZ, peri-infarct border zone.