

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S2. HISTOLOGICAL SCORING SYSTEM FOR THE EVALUATION OF CARTILAGE
IN RABBIT OSTEOCHONDRAL DEFECTS

<i>Cartilage evaluation (within the upper 1 mm of defect)</i>	<i>Score</i>
Morphology of newly formed surface tissue	
Exclusively articular cartilage	4
Mainly hyaline cartilage	3
Fibrocartilage (spherical morphology observed with $\geq 75\%$ of cells)	2
Only fibrous cartilage (spherical morphology observed with $< 75\%$ of cells)	1
No tissue	0
Thickness of newly formed cartilage	
Similar to the surrounding cartilage	3
Greater than the surrounding cartilage	2
Less than the surrounding cartilage	1
No cartilage	0
Joint surface regularity	
Smooth intact surface	3
Surface fissures ($< 25\%$ of new surface thickness)	2
Deep fissures ($\geq 25\%$ of new surface thickness)	1
Complete disruption of the new surface	0
Chondrocyte clustering	
None at all	3
$< 25\%$ chondrocytes	2
$25\text{--}100\%$ chondrocytes	1
No chondrocytes present (no cartilage)	0
Chondrocyte and GAG content of new cartilage	
Normal cellularity with normal Safranin O staining	3
Normal cellularity with moderate Safranin O staining	2
Clearly less cells with poor Safranin O staining	1
Few cells with no or little Safranin O staining or no cartilage	0
Chondrocyte and GAG content of adjacent cartilage	
Normal cellularity with normal Safranin O staining	3
Normal cellularity with moderate Safranin O staining	2
Clearly less cells with poor Safranin O staining	1
Few cells with no or little Safranin O staining or no cartilage	0

GAG, glycosaminoglycan.