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2 **S2 Table. ICRS Visual Histological Assessment Scale**

Feature	Points
I. Surface	
Smooth/continuous	3
Discontinuities/irregularities	0
II. Matrix	
Hyaline	3
Mixture: hyaline/fibrocartilage	2
Fibrocartilage	1
Fibrous tissue	0
III. Cell distribution	
Columnar	3
Mixed/columnar-clusters	2
Clusters	1
Individual cells/disorganized	0
IV. Cell population viability	
Predominantly viable	3
Partially viable	1
<10% viable	0
V. Subchondral Bone	
Normal	3
Increased remodeling	2
Bone necrosis/granulation tissue	1
Detached/fracture/callus at base	0
VI. Cartilage mineralization (calcified cartilage)	
Normal	3
Abnormal/inappropriate location	0
3 Safranin O stain	
4 Normal	4
5 Slight reduction	3
6 Moderate reduction	2
7 Severe reduction	1
8 No staining	0
9 Percent safranin O in defect	
10 75–100%	4
11 50–75%	3
12 25–50%	2
13 0–25%	1
No safranin O staining	0

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