Cell Reports, Volume 25

Supplemental Information

Brief Local Application of Progesterone

via a Wearable Bioreactor Induces Long-Term

Regenerative Response in Adult Xenopus Hindlimb

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Supplementary Fig. S1. Early response to device attachment: Progesterone levels and proliferation & **innervation patterns**, Related to Figure 1.

A-C. Progesterone levels in the three experimental groups 24 hours after amputation and device attachment, measured via ELIA both at remote tissues (A&B, blood and brain) and at injury site (C, blastema). Control (untreated after amputation), Sham (only-device treated after amputation) and Prog-device (combined progesterone-loaded device treated after amputation) animals are represented in red, orange and green, respectively. Values are represented with scatter plots, where each dot represents the average value of three biological replicates $(n=6)$ animals per replicate and experimental group). Horizontal lines indicate mean \pm sd. *P* values after Bonferroni's post-hoc test (One-way ANOVA *P* >0.05 for A&B, and *P* <0.01 for C) are indicated as ** *P* <0.01, ns: no significant difference. **D-F**. Cell proliferation (after H3P immunofluorescence) in the early fibroblastema (0.5 mpa) of untreated Control (D) and treated Prog-device (E) animals. At this stage, the proliferative response after amputation is weakly starting and no significant differences in the number of H3P-positive cells were detected between groups. In D, the bottom-right insert corresponds to the dashed-white line. Amputation plane is indicated with an orange-dashed line. **G-I.** The presence of organized blood vessels, following the longitudinal axis, was a landmark for Prog-device late blastemas (3 mpa; white asterisk in H compared to G), although not significant differences were obtained after group comparisons.

Scale bar = $100 \mu m$. G,H: Amputation plane is left, lateral is up. F, I: Values are represented with scatter plots, where each dot represents one histological section, and each dot style represents one animal. Horizontal line indicates mean. P values after *t*-test are indicated as ns: no significant difference.

Supplementary Fig. S2. Assessment of the regenerated soft tissue, Related to STAR Methods and Figure 2.

A. Diagram of a prototypical 2-mpa regenerate showing the biological meaningful elements and morphometric parameters used to evaluate the limb outcome over time: percentage of width change (W_2) respect to W_1 ; WID), percentage of unpigmented area (respect to the total regenerated area; UNA), and maximal length of the regenerate (LEN). WID: Before amputation, the limb has a constant width. This situation is not maintained after amputation and tissues start to narrow while outgrowth is progressing. A lower percentage of width change is, hence, an indicative of regenerative ability, as regenerate is closer to the original morphology, previous amputation. We evaluate the decrease in width experienced by the limb as consequence of the amputation by means of the percentage of change between two width values, before $(W_1,$ width at amputation plane, orange-dashed line) and after (W_2, w_1) width at the base of the regenerate, bluedashed line) amputation, with the formula WID = $(W_2-W_1)*100/W_1$. UNA: This variable quantifies the differences in pigmentation pattern of the regenerate, by means of the percentage of total regenerated area that is covered by unpigmented epidermis. To this, firstly, we calculated the total area regenerated (from the amputation plane to the tip of regenerate; green and pink surfaces in diagram, respectively). Secondly, a straight line indicating the demarcation of the totally unpigmented portion from the rest of the limb was drawn. Then, the area of the regenerate under that line (unpigmented area) was divided by the total area, with the formula UNA = pigmented area/ (pigmented+ unpigmented area)*100. LEN: We evaluate the maximal length of the regenerate by calculating the distance from the amputation plane to the plane set by the tip of the regenerate (distance between the two orange-dashed lines). To avoid size noise, this value was normalized to the total animal length (or distance from snout to vent, TOT LEN). This morphometric analysis

was performed on regenerates belonging each experimental group (Control and Prog-device, respectively) at five selected times for a 9.5-month period: 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 9.5 months post amputation (mpa). Representative images and graphs are indicated in Fig. 2A, B. B. Diagram of a prototypical 7.5-mpa regenerate including the positions of the twelve landmarks used for the geometric morphometrics analysis. To describe and quantify the changes in shape of the regenerate between Control and Prog-device groups, we employed MorphoJ software (Klingenberg, 2011), as extensively detailed in (Mondia et al., 2011). MorphoJ performs a geometric morphometric analysis based on landmarks or points used to define the profile of a shape. For our analysis, twelve landmarks defined each regenerate profile: the first six landmarks were biologically meaningful positions: 1 and 2 define the amputation plane, 3 and 4 for the base of the regenerate, 5 and 6 define the points at the tip of the regenerate. The other six points were semi-landmarks, chosen by successively finding the midpoints between the previous positions, as indicated by the numbers in the diagram. Landmarks were placed on digital images using ImageJ. MorphoJ is freely available from http://www.flywings.org.uk/MorphoJ_page.htm. A reference axis, passing through the middle point of a straight line linking landmarks 1 and 2, was placed on each profile. This axis was used to evaluate the curvature at the tip of the regenerate. This parameter was included as criterion for the regeneration Index. Curvature was considered *positive* when the four most distal landmarks (9, 12, 5 and 6) were situated on the same lateral plane (right or left) respect to the middle axis. In this example diagram, 9 and 5 are on left plane (blue square), as 12 and 6 are on the right one (orange square). The tip morphology of the illustrative diagram would be considered *negative* for the variable curvature.

Supplementary Fig. S3. Assessment of the bone growth and its reintegration with the remaining tissues, Related to STAR Methods and Figure 2C.

A. Diagram of a prototypical 2-mpa regenerate, under X-ray image, showing the biological meaningful elements and morphometric parameters used to evaluate the skeletal outcome over time: maximal length of bone from the amputation plane (BLEN; Table 1) and maximal area occupied by *new* bone growth (mostly non-ossified bone or regenerated cartilage, BAREA; Table 1). Responsive animals generated the same bone growth pattern as displayed in the graphic. The skeletal regrowth origin began above the plane of amputation, indicating the occurrence of a secondary or spontaneous amputation (as described in mice by Muneoka's group (Fernando et al., 2011)). The secondary amputation acts as a catalyst for bone regeneration as it creates more bone resorption and degradation. The newly formed bone typically widened at its distal end and deviated from the midline of the intact tibiofibula. The morphometric analysis was performed on regenerates belonging each experimental group (Control and Prog-device, respectively) at five selected times for a 9.5-month period: 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 9.5 months post amputation (mpa). Representative images and graphs are indicated in Fig. 3 and Supplementary Fig. S4. **B.** Diagram of a prototypical 7.5-mpa regenerate, under X-ray image, including the axis used to evaluate the reintegration of the regenerated bone and remaining tissues during limb regeneration. Left, Reintegration of the regenerated new bone and the remaining old bone. We evaluated the deviation angle (α) formed under the intersection between the middle line of the new bone growth and the middle line of the remaining bone (longitudinal axis of the tibiofibula). Right, The geometric intersection between the middle line of the intact tibiofibula bone and the plane set by the base of the regenerate was taken for evaluating the old-bone displacement (d) over the course of the

regeneration, from the longitudinal axis to the medial edge of the soft tissue. This morphometric analysis was performed on regenerates belonging each experimental group (Control and Prog-device, respectively). Representative images and graphs are indicated in Fig. 2C-2E.

Supplementary Fig. S4. Bone patterning as seen under X-ray images over a 9.5-month regenerative **period, Related to Figure 2.**

A. The morphometric analysis was performed on regenerates belonging each experimental group, Control (top) and Prog-device (bottom), at five selected times for a 9.5-month period: 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 9.5 months post amputation (mpa). The lateral brown arrows indicate amputation plane. As soon as 2.5 mpa, new bone growth above the amputation plane (red asterisk) is detected in treated animals, suggesting that the necessary catalyst for bone regeneration (as it creates more bone resorption and degradation) is enhanced by treatment. **B, C.** Overall, treated animals show a tendency for bigger area (B) and longer (C) new bone growth. As might be expected with the variability of genetic background, individual animals are clearly observed to be strong treatment 'Responders', while other treated animals behaved as 'Non-responders', similar to individuals in Control group. See Supplementary Fig. S2 for details and meaning of the

measurements. Scale bar = 0.5 cm. Values are represented with scatter plots, where each dot represents one animal.

Supplementary Fig. S5. Experimental design and section axis for histological processing of the **regenerates (A) and the uncut or intact frog hindlimb B)**, Related to Figure 1 & Figure 4

A. Top, Drawing represent a short-term regenerate, indicating plane for tissue harvesting (orangedashed line indicates the original amputation site) and longitudinal sectioning, following the ventral-to-dorsal axis. *Bottom*, The most distal portion of the 9.5-mpa regenerates (or tips) were recut approximately 2 cm below the original amputation plane (dashed-blue line indicates plane for recutting and orange-dashed line indicates the original amputation plane). Tips were sectioned along the transversal plane, obtaining cross sections (dashed-blue line) for histological analysis. **B.** Tips of 9.5-mpa regenerates were morphologically compared to the uncut or intact limb. Two different levels of the uncut limb were separately cross-sectioned, immunostained and analyzed: proximal or distal respect to the regular level for the amputation plane (orange-dashed line).

Supplementary Fig. S6. Behavioral observations of exploration and positional information, Related to Figure 5. Contingency analysis for the mean percentage of time spent in each quadrant per experimental group. $P < 0.01$ for X^2 (0.05, 9)=109.1.

Common cell processes and gene networks down-regulated in both Sham and Prog-device groups

Supplementary Fig. S7. Common down-regulated cell processes and gene networks for both Sham and **Prog-device treatments. Related to Figures 6 & 7. Subnetwork enrichment analysis of blastema exposed to** only hydrogel device (Sham group) or combined hydrogel plus drug (Prog-Device group) identified common down-regulated pathways involved in (A) changes in membrane potential, (B) dopaminergic system and (C) muscle physiology. Complete data are presented in Appendix 1. All genes within a pathway are located in Appendix 2. Green $=$ down gene, Red $=$ up gene.

Supplementary Table 1. Summary of parameters and variables used to analyze and quantify the regenerated pattern of adult *Xenopus* hindlimb after amputation, Related to STAR Methods.

Supplementary Table 2. Regeneration Index (RI) scores for individual animals at 2.5 mpa. Related to STAR Methods and Figure 3.

The RI is a numerical score [calculated by the weighted formula RI= $3*x_1 + 2*x_2 + 2*x_3 + 1*x_4 + 1*x_5 + 1*x_6$] designed for evaluating the regenerative capacity of Xenopus hindlimb. RI ranges from 0 (typical hypomorphic spike, low regenerative ability) to 10 (patterned limb-like regenerates, high regenerative ability). Ctrl: untreated Control; PD: Progesterone-device treated animals

Supplementary Table 3. Regeneration Index (RI) scores for individual animals at 9.5 mpa. Related to STAR Methods and Figure 3

The RI is a numerical score [calculated by the weighted formula RI= $3*x_1 + 2*x_2 + 2*x_3 + 1*x_4 + 1*x_5 + 1*x_6$] designed for evaluating the regenerative capacity of Xenopus hindlimb. RI ranges from 0 (typical hypomorphic spike, low regenerative ability) to 10 (patterned limb-like regenerates, high regenerative ability). Ctrl: untreated Control; PD: Progesterone-device treated animals.

Supplementary Table 4. Quantitative measurements for nerve fibers (Tubulin) and vessels (SMA) on cross sections of 9.5-mpa tips of regenerates for Control (amputated untreated) and Prog-device (amputated treated) vs. Uncut **(unamputated)** limbs. Related to Figure 4.

Values are presented as mean \pm s.d. Values for uncut limb correspond to measurements done on 10 sections of two different animals. Proximal and distal are referred to the distance from the amputation plane level (see Supplementary Fig. S5B for illustration).

Supplementary Table 5. Raw reads and unique sequences aligned to *Xenopus*, as well as the percentage of uniquely **mapped reads for each of the 9 blastema samples. Related to STAR Methods and Figures 6 & 7**

Supplementary Table 6. List of differentially expressed genes in blastema of Sham and Progesterone-device treatments, compared to Control group, respectively. Genes depicted are those that show greater than log2 fold change of 4. All differentially expressed genes can be found in Appendix S1. Related to Figure 7

