

a**Correlation matrix (Pearson (n))**

Variables	Sham	PBS	HA	hESC- MSCs	HA/hESC- MSCs	OARSI macroscopic score	Mankin score (H&E)	Mankin score (Safranin-O)	Mankin score (Alcian Blue)
Sham	1	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250	0.816	0.632	0.801	0.824
PBS	-0.250	1	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250	-0.627	-0.773	-0.584	-0.269
HA	-0.250	-0.250	1	-0.250	-0.250	-0.220	-0.304	-0.447	-0.689
hESC-MSCs	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250	1	-0.250	-0.251	0.047	-0.031	-0.017
HA/hESC-MSCs	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250	1	0.282	0.398	0.260	0.151
OARSI macroscopic score	0.816	-0.627	-0.220	-0.251	0.282	1	0.934	0.959	0.831
Mankin score (H&E)	0.632	-0.773	-0.304	0.047	0.398	0.934	1	0.956	0.799
Mankin score (Safranin-O)	0.801	-0.584	-0.447	-0.031	0.260	0.959	0.956	1	0.932
Mankin score (Alcian Blue)	0.824	-0.269	-0.689	-0.017	0.151	0.831	0.799	0.932	1

* **Note:** Values in *red* are different from 0 with a significance level ($\alpha=0.05$).