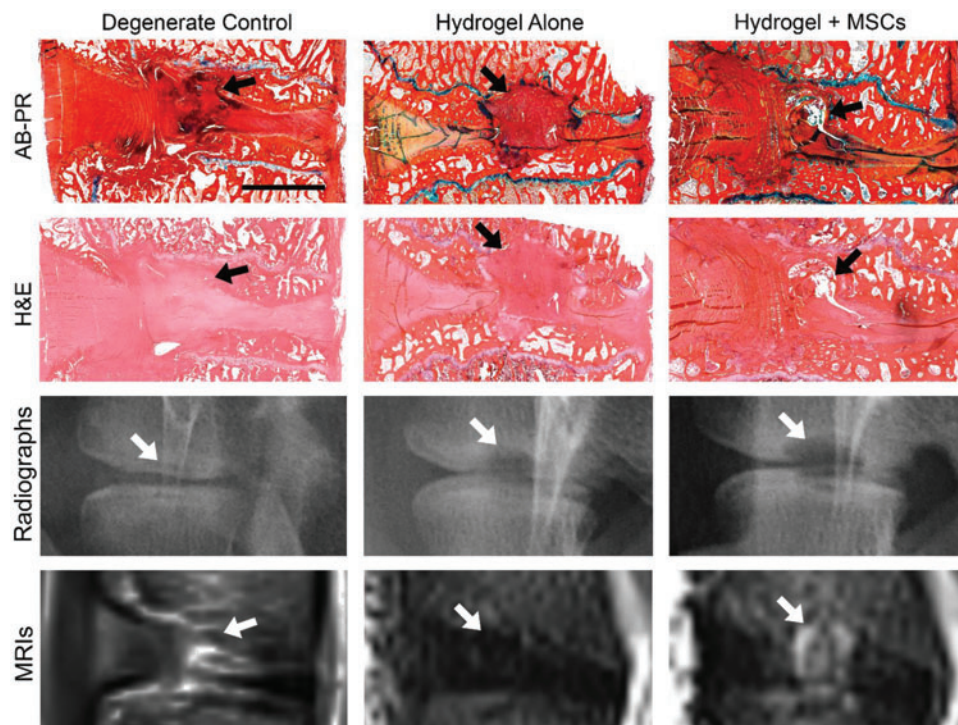


## Supplementary Data



**SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S1.** Large endplate disruptions (*arrows*) were observed in a small number of discs from degenerate control, hydrogel alone, and hydrogel + MSC treatment groups. **(A)** Alcian blue and picrosirius red-stained mid-sagittal histology sections. **(B)** Hematoxylin and eosin-stained mid-sagittal histology sections. **(C)** Lateral radiographs. **(D)** T2-weighted MRI. Scale = 5mm. MSC, mesenchymal stem cell; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging.