Inhibitory Effects of Angiotensin II Receptor Blockade on Human Tenon Fibroblast Migration and Reactive Oxygen Species Production in Cell Culture

Duri Kim¹, Ushasree Pattamatta¹, Elizabeth Kelly², Paul R. Healey¹,³,⁴, Nicole Carnt¹, Hans Zoellner², and Andrew J. R. White¹,³,⁴

¹ Centre for Vision Research, the Westmead Institute for Medical Research, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
² The Cellular and Molecular Pathology Research Unit, Department of Oral Pathology, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sydney, Westmead Hospital, New South Wales, Australia
³ Department of Ophthalmology, Westmead Hospital, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
⁴ Save Sight Institute, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Correspondence: Duri Kim, Lv6, Centre of Vision Research, the Westmead Institute for Medical Research, 176 Hawkesbury Rd, Westmead, New South Wales, Australia 2145. Email: dkim5474@uni.sydney.edu.au

Received: 3 July 2017
Accepted: 25 February 2018
Published: 9 April 2018

Keywords: cell migration; human Tenon's fibroblast; angiotensin II; glaucoma; wound healing

Citation: Kim D, Pattamatta U, Kelly E, Healey PR, Carnt N, Zoellner H, White AJR. Inhibitory effects of angiotensin II receptor blockade on human Tenon fibroblast migration and reactive oxygen species production in cell culture. Trans Vis Sci Tech. 2018;7(2):20, https://doi.org/10.1167/tvst.7.2.20
Copyright 2018 The Authors

Purpose: We investigate the effect of angiotensin receptor blockade on the migration of human Tenon fibroblasts (HTF), using irbesartan, an angiotensin II receptor type 1 (AT1R) blocker (ARB) as a potential antifibrotic agent in glaucoma filtration surgery.

Methods: Confluent HTF cultures were scratched with a 1 mL pipette tip and treated with either irbesartan (10, 50, and 100 μg/mL) or angiotensin II (2 μg/mL). The extent of HTF migration up to 30 hours, and cell number and morphology at 72 hours was evaluated. To assess the effect on reactive oxygen species (ROS) level, HTF were treated with either irbesartan (10 μg/mL) or angiotensin II (2 μg/mL) for 24 hours after scratching, and then stained with dihydroethidium (DHE) before evaluation by confocal microscopy.

Results: Irbesartan inhibited HTF migration by 50% to 70% compared to controls (P < 0.05). Levels of ROS were almost completely attenuated by irbesartan (DHE fluorescence intensity of 5.68E-09) (P < 0.05). Irbesartan reduced cell numbers by 50% and induced morphologic changes with loss of pseudopods (P < 0.05). Conversely, angiotensin II increased cell numbers up to 4-fold while retaining cell viability.

Conclusions: Irbesartan inhibited HTF migration and ROS production. It also reduced cell numbers and altered HTF morphology. Angiotensin II increased cell number without altering morphology. This initial study warrants future investigations for further potential antifibrotic effects of this drug.

Translational Relevance: This in vitro study focused on investigations of irbesartan’s effects on HTF migration, ROS production, as well as HTF cell numbers and morphology. It suggests a potential therapeutic strategy worth further exploration with a view towards postoperative wound healing modulation in glaucoma filtration surgery.

Introduction

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness and the second most common identifiable cause of blindness worldwide.¹ Current glaucoma treatment aims to reduce intraocular pressure as the principal modifiable risk factor for the disease. This includes fistulizing surgeries, such as trabeculectomy and tube implantation, which drain aqueous fluid into the lower pressure subconjunctival space. These generally are described by the term “glaucoma filtration surgery.”

In trabeculectomy, the gold standard glaucoma...
surgery, the postoperative wound healing response is the main determinant of resistance to aqueous egress and, therefore, surgical success. Subconjunctival fibrosis and scar formation is a major cause of surgical failure. Antifibrosis agents, such as mitomycin C (MMC) or 5-Fluouracil (5-FU), are administered commonly to improve prognosis by retarding the postoperative wound healing process. These antimitabolites exert their antifibrotic effects through inhibition of fibroblast proliferation and induction of apoptosis. However, MMC or 5-FU can have serious complications, such as excessive inhibition of wound healing and collateral tissue damage. This can contribute to adverse outcomes, such as hypotony, late-onset bleb leakage, endophthalmitis, and blebitis. Mitomycin resistance also can occur, which may lead to surgical failure despite its use. It would be advantageous to find an alternative way to modulate postglaucoma filtration surgery wound healing, without such complications.

A traditional view of the renin angiotensin system (RAS) is limited to its endocrine physiologic role controlling blood pressure, electrolytes, and fluid homeostasis. However, significant evidence over the last decade has revealed locally intrinsic tissue-specific roles for the RAS, including roles in wound healing, fibrosis, and inflammation, well beyond its historic role as a circulating system. The principal effector of the RAS, angiotensin II, has been shown to have proinflammatory and profibrotic properties in a number of organs, including the liver, kidney, cardiac muscle, lung and skin, mediated via the angiotensin receptor 1 (AT1R).

Interestingly the RAS, especially its product angiotensin II, has been shown to have multifaceted roles in ocular pathology and physiology. The RAS contributes to several ocular pathologies, including uveitis, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and inflammatory disorders, in which angiotensin II has been shown to enhance vascular permeability. This is mostly via induction of chemokines and adhesion molecules, together with recruitment of inflammatory cells.

Ocular physiologic roles for the RAS and angiotensin II, include influencing the eye’s vasculature, aqueous humor outflow regulation, and IOP control. This is consistent with recent findings establishing the presence of all RAS components in the human eye, including AT1R, with localized RAS elements in clinically relevant components of the eye, including the conjunctiva and sclera, validated at mRNA and protein levels.

While exploration of ocular tissue-specific elements of the RAS, and implications of this in wound healing remain at an early stage, there are recent reports demonstrating higher expression of AT1R, AT2R, and angiotensin II in rabbit Tenon fibroblasts after trabeculectomy, as well as potential therapeutic avenues created by the RAS in the eye. Losartan, the first approved AT1R blocker attenuates scar formation after trabeculectomy in vivo and in vitro, possibly via inhibitory effects on proliferation, migration, trans-differentiation and extracellular matrix deposition. Olmesartan, another angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), also inhibits fibroblast proliferation in vivo and in vitro.

Consistent with these reports, we hypothesized that the RAS is involved in postoperative wound healing in the human eye, and that its blockade may modulate fibroblast activity in the context of postoperative wound healing in glaucoma filtration surgery. Therefore, based on recently established roles of the RAS beyond the cardiovascular and renal systems, the focus of this study was to explore the possible role of the RAS, in modulation of wound healing in the eye.

Currently, eight ARBs are clinically available with United States Food and Drug Association (FDA) approval. Common molecular structures of biphenyltetrazol and imidazol groups of these drug classes have selective inhibitory effects on AT1 receptor blocker though its mimicry of angiotensin II. Small changes in chemical structures, for example the replacement of the chloride group in losartan with cyclophentyl for irbesartan, yield notable differences in their pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and molecular effects.

In this study, we chose to study the effect of irbesartan. Irbesartan is an AT1-specific competitive antagonistic with a much greater affinity for the AT1 receptor than for the AT2 receptor of more than 8500-fold with no agonist activity. It has highest bioavailability with an average absolute value of 60% to 80% among its drug class with no food interaction. Pharmacokinetically, it does not require biotransformation to an active metabolite. Due to its cyclophentyl group, it has higher affinity to the AT1 receptor with an IC50 of 1.3 nmol/L compared to an IC50 of 20 nmol/L for losartan, and a lower Kd of approximately 2 nM compared to 10 nM for losartan. Irbesartan is highly efficacious and results in a high 24-hour mean systolic blood pressure reduction effect equivalent to that of olmesartan. Of special relevance to the current study is that
Irbesartan also has additional wound healing molecular effects of significance, including potential anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects as shown in recent studies. In this in vitro study, we investigated the effect of irbesartan on HTF with angiotensin II as a positive control. This initial study is to provide a basis for further study with a view to its potential role as a therapy to modify wound healing in glaucoma filtration surgery.

**Methods**

**Human Tenon’s Fibroblast Culture**

Primary human Tenon’s fibroblast (HTF) cell lines from Tenon’s capsule biopsies of patients during cataract surgery at Westmead Hospital (New South Wales, Australia), were propagated and stored in liquid nitrogen as described previously. This previously described method provides fibroblast cultures of high purity. This was confirmed from observation of the spindle morphology in cells. The tenets of the Declarations of Helsinki were observed. Informed consent was obtained and approval from the Westmead Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee was obtained.

HTFs were thawed and cultured in complete M199 media containing: 10% bovine calf serum (BCS); the antibiotics penicillin (100 U/mL), streptomycin (100 µg/mL), and amphotericin B (2.5 µg/mL); and 0.4 mM of L-glutamine (M199, BCS, antibiotics, antifungal and L-glutamine, all from Gibco; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA). Experiments were conducted with HTF in passage number 4, at 37°C, under 5% CO₂, and 100% humidity.

**Drug Preparation**

Irbesartan (Sigma-Aldrich Corp, St. Louis, MO) and human angiotensin II (Sigma-Aldrich Corp) were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, Sigma-Aldrich Corp) and prepared as a concentrated stock. DMSO was used as a vehicle for the purpose of concentrated stock preparation for experiments without any effects on HTFs. For this study, the drugs were diluted further with culture medium to achieve the concentrations desired by the experimental design. The final concentrations of DMSO in experimental solutions were 0.04% for 10 µg/mL irbesartan, 0.2% for 50 µg/mL irbesartan, 0.4% for 100 µg/mL irbesartan, and 0.2% for 2 µg/mL angiotensin.

**Fibroblast Migration Assay**

HTFs were seeded onto 24-well plates in M199 containing 10% BCS and antibiotics. At near confluence, HTF cultures were scratched with a 1 mL pipette tip and treated with either: irbesartan at a range of concentrations (10, 50, and 100 µg/mL), angiotensin (2 µg/mL), or media as control. HTFs were photographed through a microscope at a magnification of ×40 (Olympus CK2, Tokyo, Japan) and Scopephoto camera (Scopetek, Hangzhou, China) at 0, 3, 6, 24, and 30 hours after scratch. All experiments were performed in sextuplet (n = 6) replicate cell wells. We determined 0 hour as the start point and 30 hours as the endpoint due to estimated imminent complete scratch closure in some HTF groups. Images then were analyzed with ImageJ (National Institutes of Health [NIH], Bethesda, MD), Adobe Photoshop (Adobe Systems, San Jose, CA), Microsoft Office (Microsoft, Redmond, WA), and Prism (Graphpad Software, La Jolla, CA). The average distance migrated by HTF at increasing times following scratching was calculated by comparison of the denuded areas remaining relative to the zero time point per each cell well.

**Dihydroethidium Reactive Oxygen Species Assay**

To determine the effect of irbesartan on reactive oxygen species (ROS) production by HTF, HTFs were seeded on gelatin-coated cover slips in each well and cultured to confluence in complete media M199 containing 10% BCS and antibiotics in a 37°C, 5% CO₂ incubator. After aspiration of the media, HTFs were scratched with a 1 mL pipette tip and treated with either irbesartan 10 µg/mL, angiotensin 2 µg/mL or vehicle for 24 hours. This experiment was performed in triplicate (n = 3) replicate cell wells. The concentration of 10 µg/mL irbesartan was used as the minimum effective dose determined from the scratch assay and by previous studies. HTFs then were stained with 10 µM dihydroethidium (DHE; Sigma-Aldrich Corp) for 5 minutes. After washing with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; Gibco, Thermo Fisher Scientific), coverslips were transferred onto glass slides and subsequently photographed under the same standardized intensity settings on three filter channels with a confocal microscope (Olympus FV1000). Three images were taken from different sites in each well at ×20 magnification. Fluorescence intensity of DHE was analyzed with ImageJ.
HTF Cell Counts and Cellular Morphology Analysis

At 30 hours after scratch, supernatants were collected and replaced with M199 media containing 10% BCS and antibiotics without additional treatments of irbesartan or angiotensin. HTFs were incubated in 37°C, 5% CO₂ for a further 42 hours and observed at 72 hours after scratch. Images were taken with a microscope at the magnification of ×40 as described for migration assays above. Quadruplicate (n = 4) manual cell counts were performed of all cells in the photomicrographs of the middle half of the images alongside the scratch with ImageJ and Adobe Photoshop. Cell count data were expressed in units of cells per visual area, and means and standard deviations accordingly. Only adherent HTFs were counted. Cell morphology was analyzed by calculating circularity (Circularity = 4 π × area ÷ (perimeter)²).

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis and graphic output were performed using Prism and Excel software. Bonferroni corrected Student’s t-test was used for comparisons of multiple groups against a reference, such as control. P values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results

Irbesartan Inhibited HTF Migration

Irbesartan inhibited HTF migration such that at 10, 50, and 100 µg/mL, irbesartan reduced scratch closure by 69%, 65%, and 52% relative to controls at 30 hours (Bonferroni corrected unpaired t-test P < 0.05; Fig. 1). All experiments were performed in sextuplicate (n = 6) cell wells; however, for angiotensin and control groups, five culture wells were analyzed for each because of unfavorable scratch orientation. There was no statistically significant effect of angiotensin on migration. We determined 10 µg/mL to be the minimum effective dose of irbesartan in this experimental model, so this was used as the dose of irbesartan in the ROS assay described below.²²

Irbesartan Reduced ROS Levels

ROS production detected by DHE fluorescence was observed readily, with irbesartan-treated HTFs almost completely attenuating fluorescence compared to controls (Bonferroni corrected t-test, P < 0.05). The angiotensin-treated group did not display any statistically significant change (Fig. 2).

Effects of Irbesartan and Angiotensin on HTF Cell Number and Morphology at 72 Hours After Scratch

At 72 hours after scratch, irbesartan reduced HTF cell numbers and there was morphologic change with increased circularity, whereas angiotensin II-treated HTFs exhibited higher cell numbers with retained viability. Figure 3 shows representative images of HTFs, graphs of HTF circularity, and HTF cell numbers.

Angiotensin II-treated HTFs had the typical appearance of fibroblasts with a circularity measure of 0.33 (Bonferroni corrected t-test, P < 0.0001). However, irbesartan-treated HTFs displayed altered appearance with loss of dendritic pseudopod processes and increased circularity to 0.61 (Bonferroni corrected t-test, P < 0.0001). Control groups exhibited circularity of 0.18 with retained pseudopod processes. For HTF circularity analysis, 100 µg/mL irbesartan was used to determine the effect of the drug on HTF morphology, rather than trying to determine the minimum effective dosage.

The number of surviving adherent cells revealed clear contrasts among the groups. Compared to control groups with 364.5 ± 41.10 (SD) cells per visual area, irbesartan (10 µg/mL) had a near halved cell number to 215.8 ± 46.96 (SD) cells per visual area. Conversely, the angiotensin-treated HTFs cell number was 1622 ± 345.0 (SD) cells per visual area, an almost 4-fold increase compared to the control group. Using a Bonferroni corrected t-test, all three groups were different from each other, with statistically significant P values of less than 0.05.

Discussion

HTF migration is a crucial step in wound healing, which involves tissue contraction at the bleb site after trabeculectomy.⁴³ In this in vitro study, irbesartan exhibited an antimigratory effect that, if seen in vivo, would be expected to be antifibrotic. This may have clinical translational relevance in ophthalmology and medicine.¹¹

Additionally, irbesartan significantly modulated ROS formation to almost complete attenuation. Reduced superoxide (O₂⁻) formation signifies an important role of this drug class. ROS, such as
hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$) and O$_2$– have well established roles in differing aspects of wound healing, including inflammation, fibroblast migration, proliferation, and angiogenesis.

The effect of irbesartan in reducing O$_2$– formation may have potential to be adapted for therapeutic use in other ocular pathologies. The already catalogued presence of the RAS in the eye involving multiple ocular pathologies supports this suggestion.

The proliferative and ROS inductive effect of angiotensin II seen in this study, supports a role in fibrosis, while the maintained fusiform morphology of HTF stimulated in this way also is consistent with a fibrotic phenotype. Conversely, the effects seen of irbesartan on morphology and ROS production suggests an anti-inflammatory and antifibrotic phenotype.

We interpret increased circularity with loss of dendritic processes in HTFs as denoting suppressed cell adhesion, locomotion, and migration, which can have lasting effects in the tissue remodeling phase of wound healing, leading to suppressed scar formation. Reduced or increased cell numbers may suggest potential effects of RAS modulation in HTFs on cell survival.

It is interesting to note that in this 72-hour assay, at 30 hours after scratch, the media was changed without additional treatment of either irbesartan or angiotensin II. Persistence of a response in the absence of continuous stimulation with the drug suggests a lasting effect of angiotensin receptor blockade after treatment.

This initial study raises the clinically relevant possibility of a therapeutic method with a view to use irbesartan as an antifibrotic agent in glaucoma surgery. This drug class offers potential advantages in that it already has a well-established systemic safety
profile and is used widely with range of known therapeutic properties.

Our findings of this drug class are consistent with the results of recently published studies as we also demonstrated the inhibitory effect of angiotensin receptor blockade (AT1) on fibrosis in human Tenons.30–32 A previous study 30 established the promoting effect of Ang II on fibrosis in vivo after trabeculectomy in rabbits and in vitro using HTFs. Since then, Shi et al. 31 also showed that losartan attenuated scar formation in vivo and in vitro. In their study, losartan (10−5 M) decreased HTF cell proliferation compared to the control by 20.4%, migration by 48.3% at 24 hours, and transdifferentiation and ECM (extracellular matrix) synthesis by almost 2-fold.31 Additionally, they also indicated that losartan (5 mg/mL) attenuated bleb scarring after trabeculectomy in rabbit eyes with a 77.8% inhibition compared to control.31

Olmesartan also was shown to exhibit dose-dependent inhibitory effects in HTF proliferation with an 11% inhibition at 0.75 μmol/mL.32 It also exerted antiscarring effects in vivo via a decrease in ECM remodeling in rabbit Tenon’s capsule through an increased expression of tissue inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinases (TIMP)-1, TIMP-2, and decreased matrix metalloproteinases (MMP)-2 and proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA).32 While concordant, our study differs from other recently published studies in that we investigated irbesartan as the drug of choice. To our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate irbesartan as a potential antifibrotic drug in the eye.

In our study, it is interesting to note that irbesartan led to the larger reduction (%) in cell migration to 69% (10 μg/mL), 65% (50 μg/mL), and 52% (100 μg/mL) relative to controls at 30 hours (P < 0.05), compared to losartan with 41.3% and 48.3% (at 12 and 24 hours with posttreatment; P < 0.001) and 49.6% and 48.6% reduction (at 12 and 24 hours with pretreatment; P < 0.01).31 We speculated that this result may be due to irbesartan’s higher affinity to the AT1 receptor as well as high efficacy.33,36,37

Figure 2. Confocal microscopic photographs and histogram demonstrating the effect of irbesartan on ROS levels in the ROS-DHE assay (A–C) Representative photographs via DHE fluorescent detection are shown for each group. Irbesartan attenuated the ROS levels compared to controls and angiotensin. (D–E) The histogram shows irbesartan significantly reduced the level of ROS levels to almost complete attenuation as opposed to angiotensin, which appeared to increase ROS levels. Error bars: Standard deviation on all graphs (*P < 0.05 relative to control).
Further, our in vitro study investigated anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effect as well as potential cellular effects of this drug additional to its major antimigratory effect. This is consistent with evidence suggestive of the role of tissue-specific RAS in inflammation and fibrosis.\textsuperscript{9} This also is in line with irbesartan’s anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and anti-fibrotic properties shown in other organs and tissues.\textsuperscript{39} The inhibitory effect of irbesartan in inflammation, apoptosis, and fibrosis has been demonstrated in cardiovascular, renal, pulmonary, and gastrointestinal systems. Irbesartan is thought to exert these effects through AT1-dependent as well as nonindependent mechanisms involving peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR)\textsuperscript{γ} activation;\textsuperscript{39} however, this effect is not yet studied in the eye or using ocular tissues. While the specific mechanisms of irbesartan in wound healing are beyond the immediate scope of this study, it would be of value to investigate these mechanisms further in future work.

The effect of irbesartan on the ocular system has not had prior investigation, so that it is difficult to speculate on the possible ocular complications associated with this drug. We also feel it may be premature to compare the therapeutic benefit of this drug to MMC or 5-FU, based on the current initial study alone. Although current data are encouraging, and while it is widely accepted that ARBs are among the safest and best tolerated cardiovascular drugs approved for clinical use, further studies regarding safety for use in the ocular system are required. Extensive evidence of this drug and its safety in in vivo, in vitro, and in clinical studies would be of advantage in further studies using this drug for the...
purpose of an antifibrotic therapeutic after trabeculectomy.

The effect of angiotensin receptor blockade in wound healing in HTF is an area of current interest and active research by a number of laboratories.\(^\text{31,32}\) While our findings present evidence of a potentially valuable drug action of irbesartan, the mechanism for this is beyond the scope of the current study and requires further investigation. We believe further in vitro, in vivo, and clinical studies are justified.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the staff at the Westmead Institute of Medical Research, the Cellular and Molecular Pathology Research Unit in the Faculty of Dentistry, and the eye clinic at Westmead hospital for their kind help.

Disclosure: **D. Kim**, None; **U. Pattamatta**, None; **E. Kelly**, None; **P.R. Healey**, None; **N. Carnt**, None; **H. Zoellner**, None; **A.J.R. White**, None

References

1. Resnikoff S, Pascolini D, Etya’ale D, et al. Global data on visual impairment in the year 2002. *Bull WHO*. 2004;82:844–851.
2. Hitchings RA, Grierson I. Clinico pathological correlation in eyes with failed fistulizing surgery. *Trans Ophthalmol Soc United Kingdom*. 1983;103(Pt 1):84–88.
3. Addicks EM, Quigley HA, Green WR, Robin AL. Histologic characteristics of filtering blebs in glaucomatous eyes. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 1983;101:795–798.
4. Crowston JG, Akbar AN, Constable PH, Oclesten NL, Daniels JT, Khaw PT. Antimetabolite-induced apoptosis in Tenon’s capsule fibroblasts. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 1998;39:449–454.
5. Lama PJ, Fechtner RD. Antifibrotics and wound healing in glaucoma surgery. *Surv Ophthalmol*. 2003;48:314–346.
6. Akarsu C, Önl M, Hasanreisoglu B. Postoperative 5-fluorouracil versus intraoperative mitomycin C in high-risk glaucoma filtering surgery: extended follow up. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol*. 2003;31:199–205.
7. Wang XY, Crowston JG, White AJR, Zoellner H, Healey PR. Interferon-alpha and interferon-gamma modulate Fas-mediated apoptosis in mitomycin-C-resistant human Tenon’s fibroblasts. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol*. 2014;42:529–538.
8. Dzau VJ, Re R. Tissue angiotensin system in cardiovascular medicine. A paradigm shift? *Circulation*. 1994;89:493–498.
9. Paul M, Poyan Mehr A, Kreutz R. Physiology of local renin-angiotensin systems. *Physiol Rev*. 2006;86:747–803.
10. Bataller R, Brenner DA. Liver fibrosis. *J Clin Invest*. 2005;115:209–218.
11. Guo G, Morrissey J, McCracken R, Tolley T, Liapis H, Klahr S. Contributions of angiotensin II and tumor necrosis factor-α to the development of renal fibrosis. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*. 2001;280:F777–F785.
12. Kawano H, Do YS, Kawano Y, et al. Angiotensin II has multiple profibrotic effects in human cardiac fibroblasts. *Circulation*. 2000;101:1130–1137.
13. Montes E, Ruiz V, Checa M, et al. Renin is an angiotensin-independent profibrotic mediator: role in pulmonary fibrosis. *Eur Resp J*. 2011;39:141.
14. Kawaguchi Y, Takagi K, Hara M, et al. Angiotensin II in the lesional skin of systemic sclerosis patients contributes to tissue fibrosis via angiotensin II type 1 receptors. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2004;50:216–226.
15. de Gasparo M, Catt KJ, Inagami T, Wright JW, Unger T. International union of pharmacology. XXIII. The angiotensin II receptors. *Pharmacol Rev*. 2000;52:415–472.
16. Lakshmanan AP, Watanabe K, Thandavarayan RA, et al. Telmisartan attenuates oxidative stress and renal fibrosis in streptozotocin induced diabetic mice with the alteration of angiotensin-(1–7) mas receptor expression associated with its PPAR-γ agonist action. *Free Rad Res*. 2011;45:575–584.
17. Satofuka S, Ichihara A, Nagai N, et al. Suppression of ocular inflammation in endotoxin-induced uveitis by inhibiting nonproteolytic activation of prorenin. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2006;47:2686–2692.
18. Kurihara T, Ozawa Y, Ishida S, Okano H, Tsubota K. Renin-angiotensin system hyperactivation can induce inflammation and retinal neural dysfunction. *Int J Inflamm*. 2012;2012:581695.
19. Choudhary R, Kapoor MS, Singh A, Bodakhe SH. Therapeutic targets of renin-angiotensin system in ocular disorders. *J Curr Ophthalmol*. 2017;29:7–16.
20. Holappa M. Many faces of renin-angiotensin system - focus on eye. Open Ophthalmol J. 2017; 11:122–142.

21. Ilieva I, Ohgami K, Jin X-H, et al. Captopril suppresses inflammation in endotoxin-induced uveitis in rats. Exp Eye Res. 2006;83:651–657.

22. Miyazaki A, Kitaichi N, Ohgami K, et al. Anti-inflammatory effect of angiotensin type 1 receptor antagonist on endotoxin-induced uveitis in rats. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol. 2008; 246:747–757.

23. Nagai N, Oike Y, Noda K, et al. Suppression of ocular inflammation in endotoxin-induced uveitis by blocking the angiotensin II type 1 receptor. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2005;46:2925–2931.

24. Meyer BR, Vashishtha A. Angiotensin-converting-enzyme genotype and ischemic heart disease. New Engl J Med. 1995;333:458–459; author reply 459–460.

25. Rockwood EJ, Fantans F, Davis EB, Anderson DR. The response of retinal vasculature to angiotensin. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 1987;28:676–682.

26. Constad WH, Fiore P, Samson C, Cinotti AA. Use of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor in ocular hypertension and primary open-angle glaucoma. Am J Ophthalmol. 1988;105:674–677.

27. Savaskan E, Loffler KU, Meier F, Muller-Spahn F, Flammer J, Meyer P. Immunohistochemical localization of angiotensin-converting enzyme, angiotensin II and AT1 receptor in human ocular tissues. Ophthal Res. 2004;36:312–320.

28. White AJ, Cheruvu SC, Sarris M, et al. Expression of classical components of the renin-angiotensin system in the human eye. J Renin Angioten Aldosterone Syst. 2015;16:59–66.

29. Wagner J, Jan Danser AH, Derkx FH, et al. Demonstration of renin mRNA, angiotensinogen mRNA, and angiotensin converting enzyme mRNA expression in the human eye: evidence for an intraocular renin-angiotensin system. Br J Ophthalmol. 1996;80:159–163.

30. Shi H, Zhang Y, Fu S, Lu Z, Ye W, Xiao Y. Angiotensin II as a morphogenic cytokine stimulating fibrogenesis of human Tenon’s capsule fibroblasts effect of ang II on HTFs. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2015;56:855–864.

31. Shi H, Wang H, Fu S, et al. Losartan attenuates scar formation in filtering bleb after trabeculectomy losartan in HTFs fibrosis. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2017;58:1478–1486.

32. Wang X, Fan Y-Z, Yao L, Wang J-M. Anti-proliferative effect of olmesartan on Tenon’s capsule fibroblasts. Int J Ophthalmol. 2016;9:669–676.

33. Miura S-i, Karnik SS, Saku K. Angiotensin II type 1 receptor blockers: class effects vs. molecular effects. J Renin Angioten Aldosterone Syst. 2011;12:1–7.

34. Hines J, Fluharty SJ, Sakai RR. The angiotensin AT1 receptor antagonist irbesartan has near-peptide affinity and potently blocks receptor signaling. Eur J Pharmacol. 1999;384:81–89.

35. Vachharajani NN, Shyu WC, Chando TJ, Everett DW, Greene DS, Barbhaiya RH. Oral bioavailability and disposition characteristics of irbesartan, an angiotensin antagonist, in healthy volunteers. J Clin Pharmacol. 1998;38:702–707.

36. Burnier M. Angiotensin II type 1 receptor blockers. Circulation. 2001;103:904–912.

37. Abraham HMA, White CM, White WB. The comparative efficacy and safety of the angiotensin receptor blockers in the management of hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases. Drug Safety. 2015;38:33–54.

38. Proudfoot JM, Croft KD, Puddey IB, Beilin LJ. Angiotensin II type 1 receptor antagonists inhibit basal as well as low-density lipoprotein and platelet-activating factor-stimulated human monocyte chemoattractant protein-1. J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 2003;305:846–853.

39. Clasen R, Schupp M, Foryst-Ludwig A, et al. PPARgamma-activating angiotensin type-1 receptor blockers induce adiponectin. Hypertension. 2005;46:137–143.

40. Marshall TG, Lee RE, Marshall FE. Common angiotensin receptor blockers may directly modulate the immune system via VDR, PPAR and CCR2b. Theoret Biol Med Model. 2006;3:1.

41. Anjaneyulu M, Chopra K. Effect of irbesartan on the antioxidant defense system and nitric oxide release in diabetic rat kidney. Am J Nephrol. 2004; 24:488–496.

42. White AJ, Heller JP, Leung J, Tassoni A, Martin KR. Retinal ganglion cell neuroprotection by an angiotensin II blocker in an ex vivo retinal explant model. J Renin Angioten Aldosterone Syst. 2015;16:1193–1201.

43. Joseph JP, Miller MH, Hitchings RA. Wound healing as a barrier to successful filtration surgery. Eye. 1988;2(suppl):S113–S123.

44. Chiarugi P, Pani G, Giannoni E, et al. Reactive oxygen species as essential mediators of cell adhesion: the oxidative inhibition of a FAK tyrosine phosphatase is required for cell adhesion. J Cell Biol. 2003;161:933–944.
45. Hakim J. [Reactive oxygen species and inflammation]. *C R Seances Soc Biol Fil*. 1993;187:286–295.
46. Geiszt M, Leto TL. The Nox family of NAD(P)H oxidases: host defense and beyond. *J Biol Chem*. 2004;279:51715–51718.
47. Guo S, DiPietro LA. Factors Affecting Wound Healing. *J Dent Res*. 2010;89:219–229.
48. Lauffenburger DA, Horwitz AF. Cell migration: a physically integrated molecular process. *Cell*. 1996;84:359–369.