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Articular Cartilage Replacement Materials

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Articular cartilaginous tissue damages caused by trauma and various pathologies can induce the development of osteoarthritis. The prevalence of this disease has grown significantly with an increase in life expectancy and obesity. To overcome this problem, there are currently several approaches, from physiotherapy treatments and medication, to alleviate symptoms associated with the replacement of the damaged tissue, depending on its state. In a more invasive approach, the natural joint is completely removed and replaced with artificial materials (e.g. chrome-cobalt alloys, stainless steel, titanium alloys, ultrahigh-molecular-weight polyethylene, alumina, and delta ceramics). In this case, the area of damaged cartilage is replaced with natural cartilage from the patient or donor, or with an artificial material (usually a hydrogel due to its similarity with the cartilage). Reconstruction of natural tissue has also been attempted using the most varied scaffold structures. This Special Issue therefore aims to collate recent research work related to the development and performance of materials used for replacing natural articular cartilage.













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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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