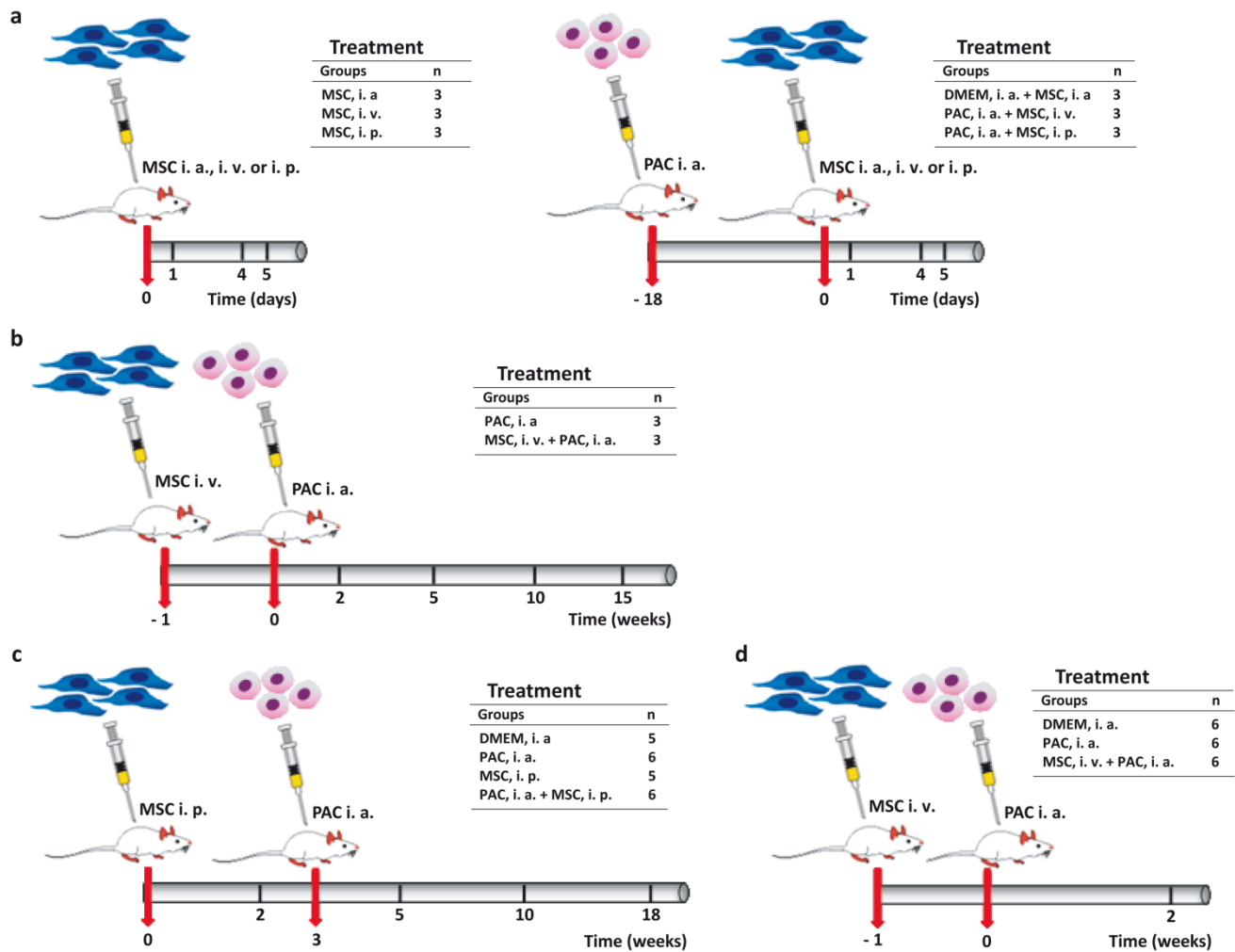


Supplementary Material

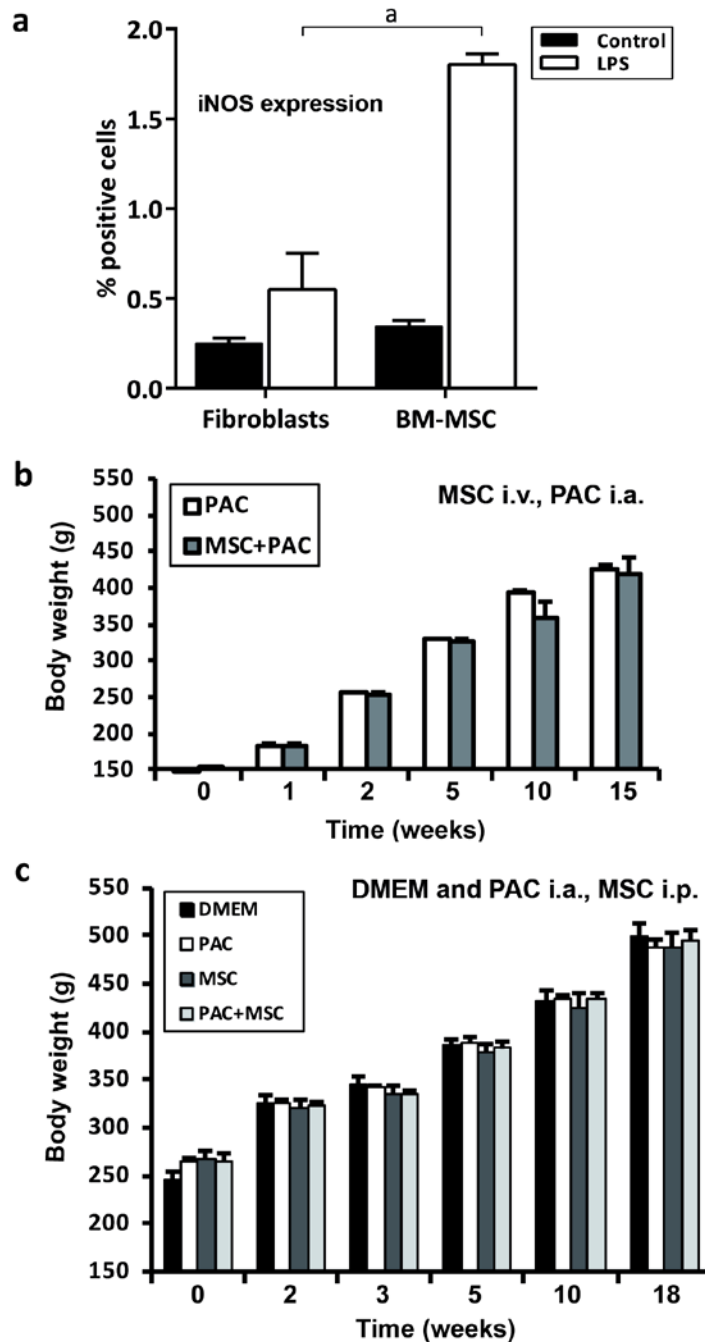
**BIODISTRIBUTION AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF ALLOGENEIC
MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS IN A RAT MODEL OF
INTRAARTICULAR CHONDROCYTE XENOTRANSPLANTATION.**

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Supplementary Figure 1. Scheme of the experimental animal design. Four different animal experiments were performed which are described in the Materials and Methods section. (A) Localization studies of luciferase-labeled MSC in rats untreated or injected with PAC intraarticularly (i.a.) 2.5 weeks earlier. (B) Study of the immune response for 15 weeks in rats injected i.a. with PAC only or also pre-treated with MSC intravenously (i.v.). (C) Study of the immune response for 18 weeks in rats injected i.a. with PAC only or also post-treated with MSC intraperitoneally (i.p.). Controls of DMEM only or MSC only are included. (D) Study of the local immune response in rats injected i.a. with PAC only or also pre-treated with MSC i.v.. Controls of DMEM only are included.



Supplementary Figure 2. Experiment of Lewis rats injected intraarticularly (i.a.) with PAC only or additionally treated with MSC. (A) Function of the allogeneic MSC preparations used *in vivo* was assessed *in vitro* by determining the proportion of iNOS-expressing MSC in resting and LPS-stimulated conditions. Murine fibroblasts (3T3L1) were included as control. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM (n=4). Statistical differences were observed using the Mann-Whitney U test between LPS-activated MSC and fibroblasts as indicated (^ap \leq 0.02), but not between resting cells. (B) Body weight measurements throughout the 1-week pre-treatment study (suppl. Fig. 1B) for the two experimental groups are presented as mean \pm SEM (n=3). (C) Body weight measurements throughout the 3-week post-treatment study (suppl. Fig. 1C) for all the experimental groups are presented as mean \pm SEM (n=5/6). No statistically significant differences were observed between the experimental cohorts regarding body weight.