G00002

METHODS, INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS FOR CHONDROCYTE CELL TRANSPLANTATION

The present invention provides a method for the effective treatment of articulating joint surface cartilage in an animal by the transplantation of an implantable article including chondrocyte cells retained to an absorbable support matrix. The present invention is also directed to an instrument for placing and manipulating the implantable article at the site of implantation, and a retention device for securing the implantable article to the site of implantation. The present invention is also directed to an implantable article for cartilage repair in an animal, the implantable article including chondrocyte cells retained on an absorbable support matrix, and a method of making same. This invention also encompasses, in general, an article comprising an absorbable flexible support matrix for living cells grown and adhered thereto.

162162