

CARTILAGE IMPLANT**ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to methods of culture of chondrocytes, and in particular to methods of preparation of chondrocyte cultures suitable for use in tissue grafting. The invention provides a matrix for chondrocyte culture, comprising a resorbable polymer material, optionally pre-coated with a tissue-compatible polymer, and coated with a tissue-compatible protein. Preferably the resorbable polymer material is a resorbable suture material. The invention also provides a cartilage implant, comprising a matrix according to the invention, and cultured chondrocytes adhered to and/or growing into the matrix, and methods of preparing cartilage implants, and methods of preparing cartilage lesions.

(FIGURE 1 IS SUGGESTED FOR PUBLICATION)