

Fig. 1

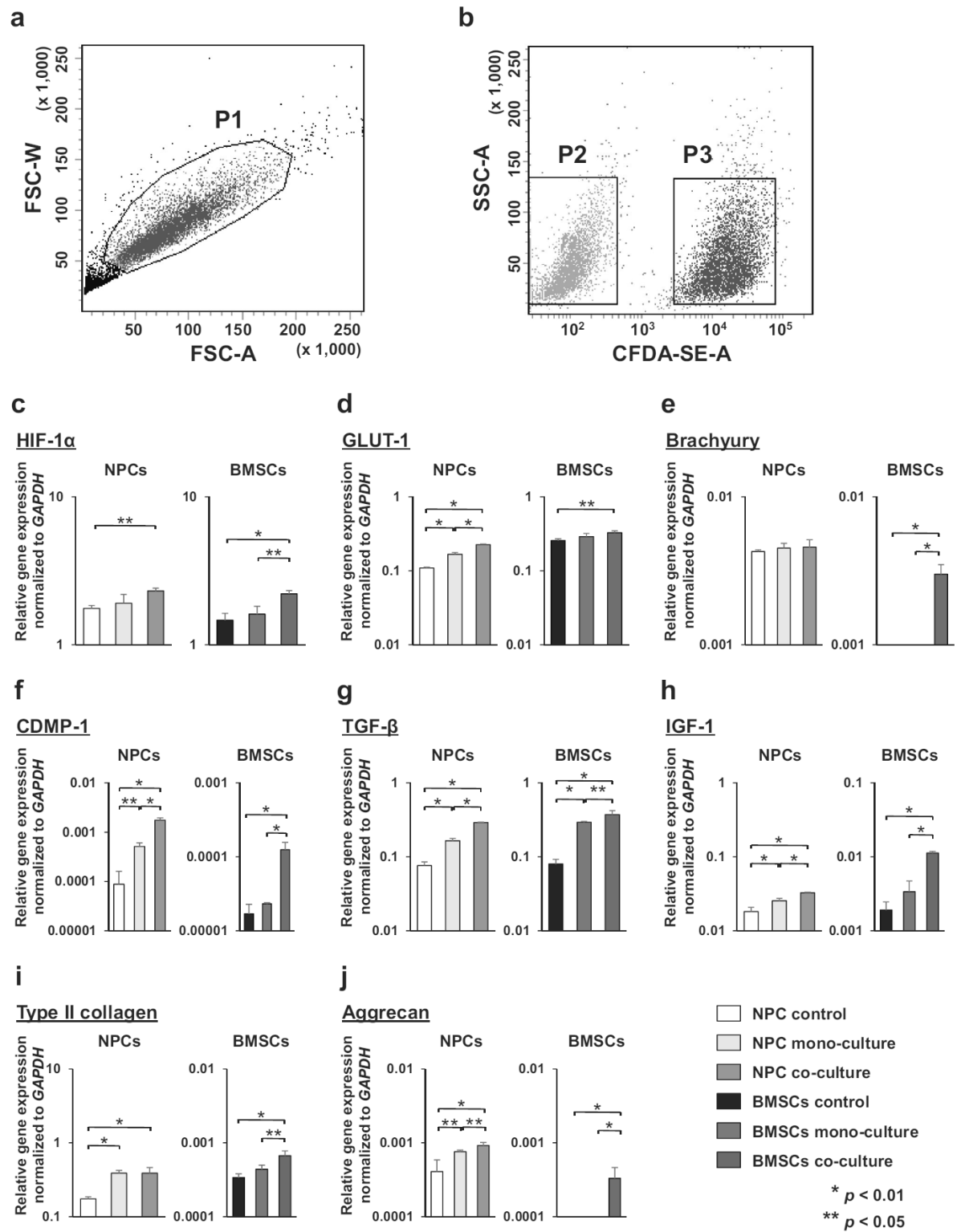


Fig. 2

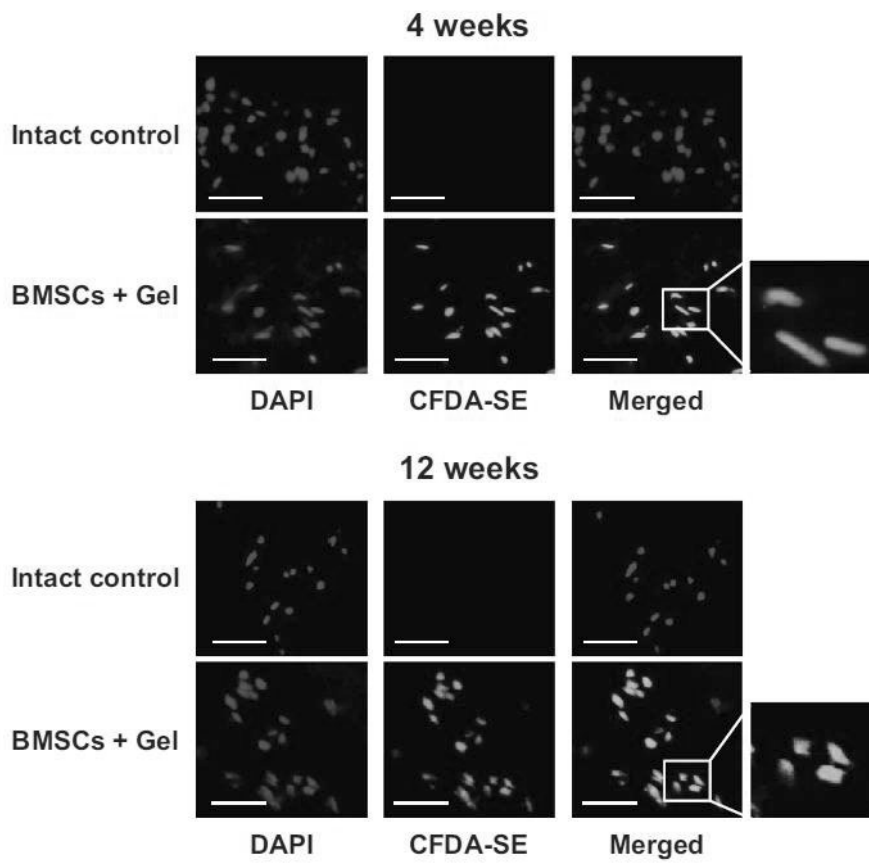


Fig. 3

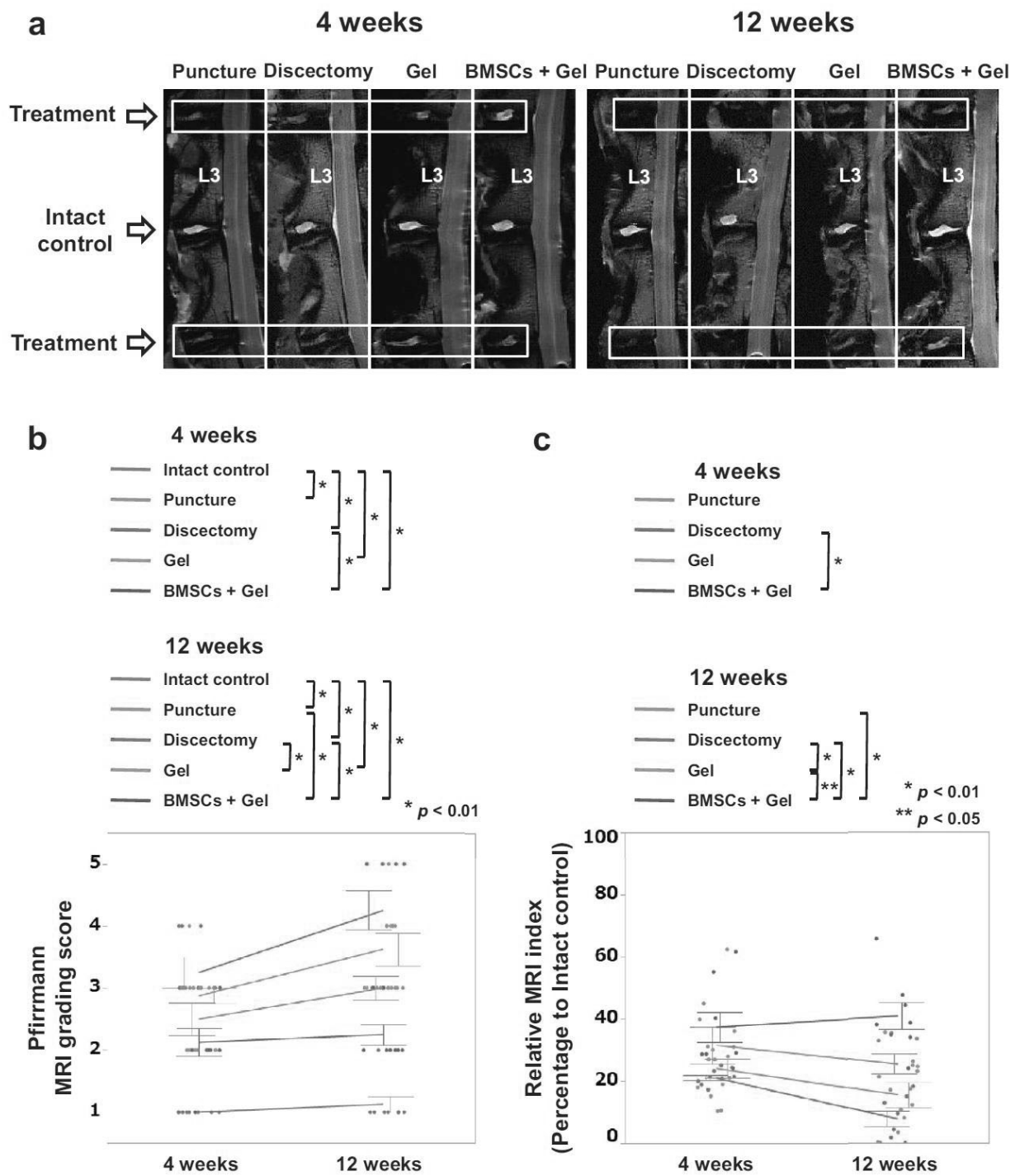


Fig. 4

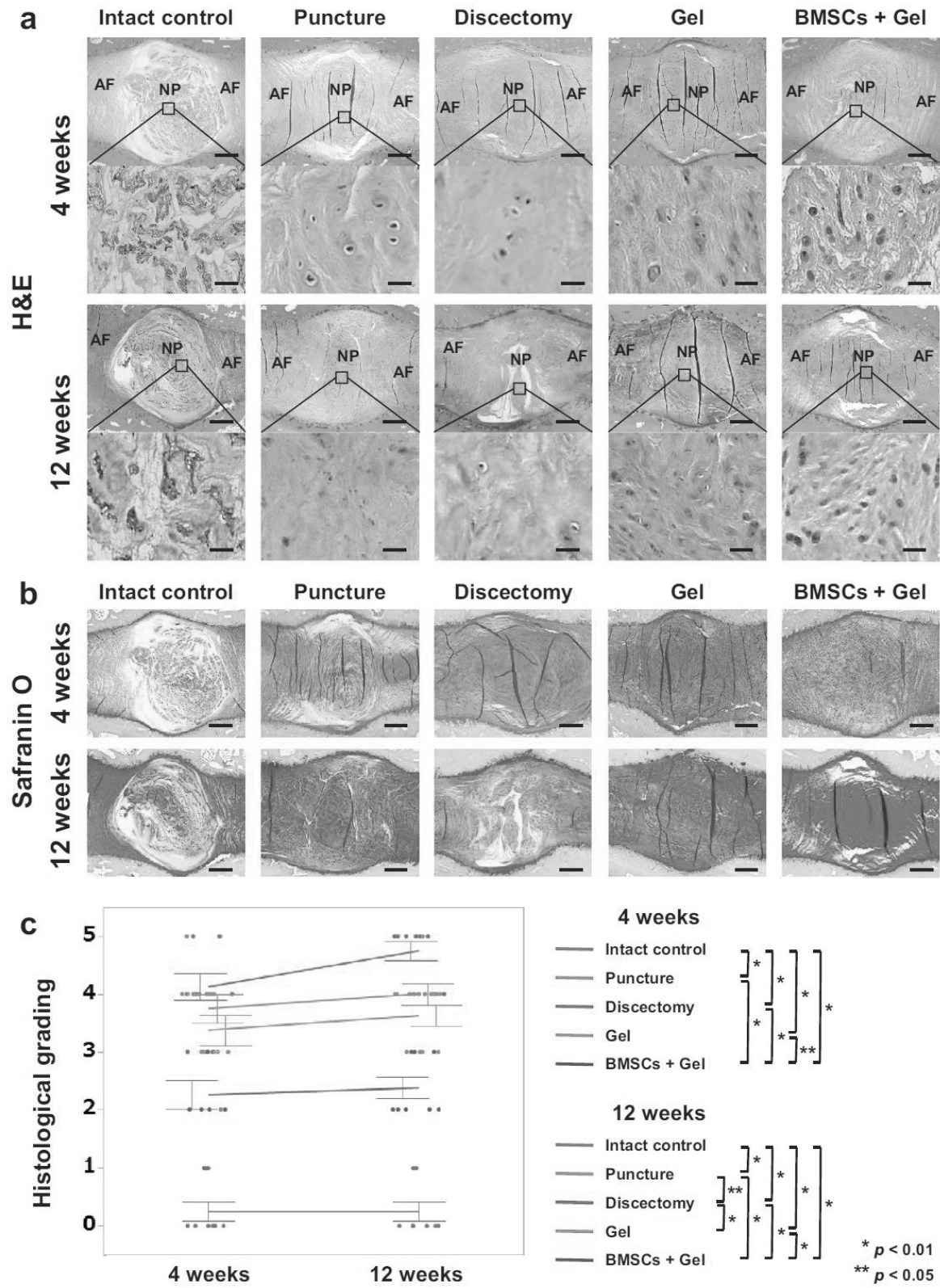


Fig. 5

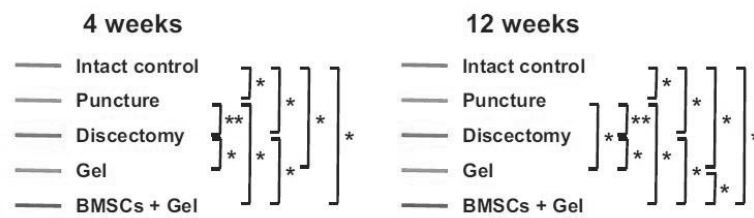
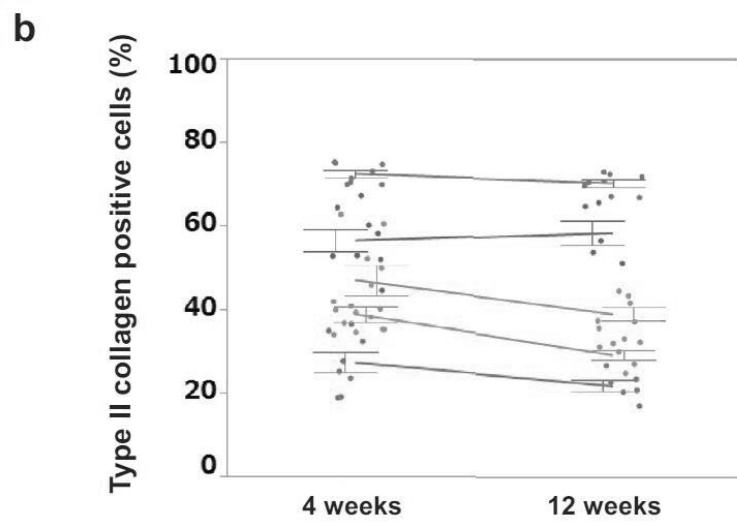
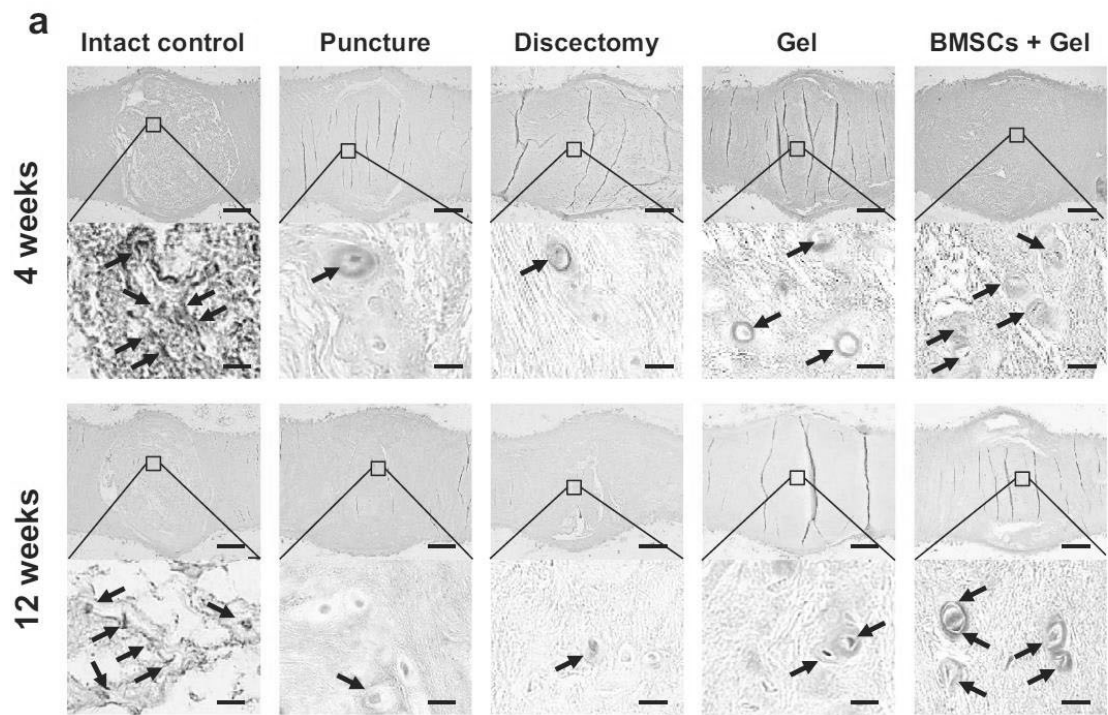


Fig. 6

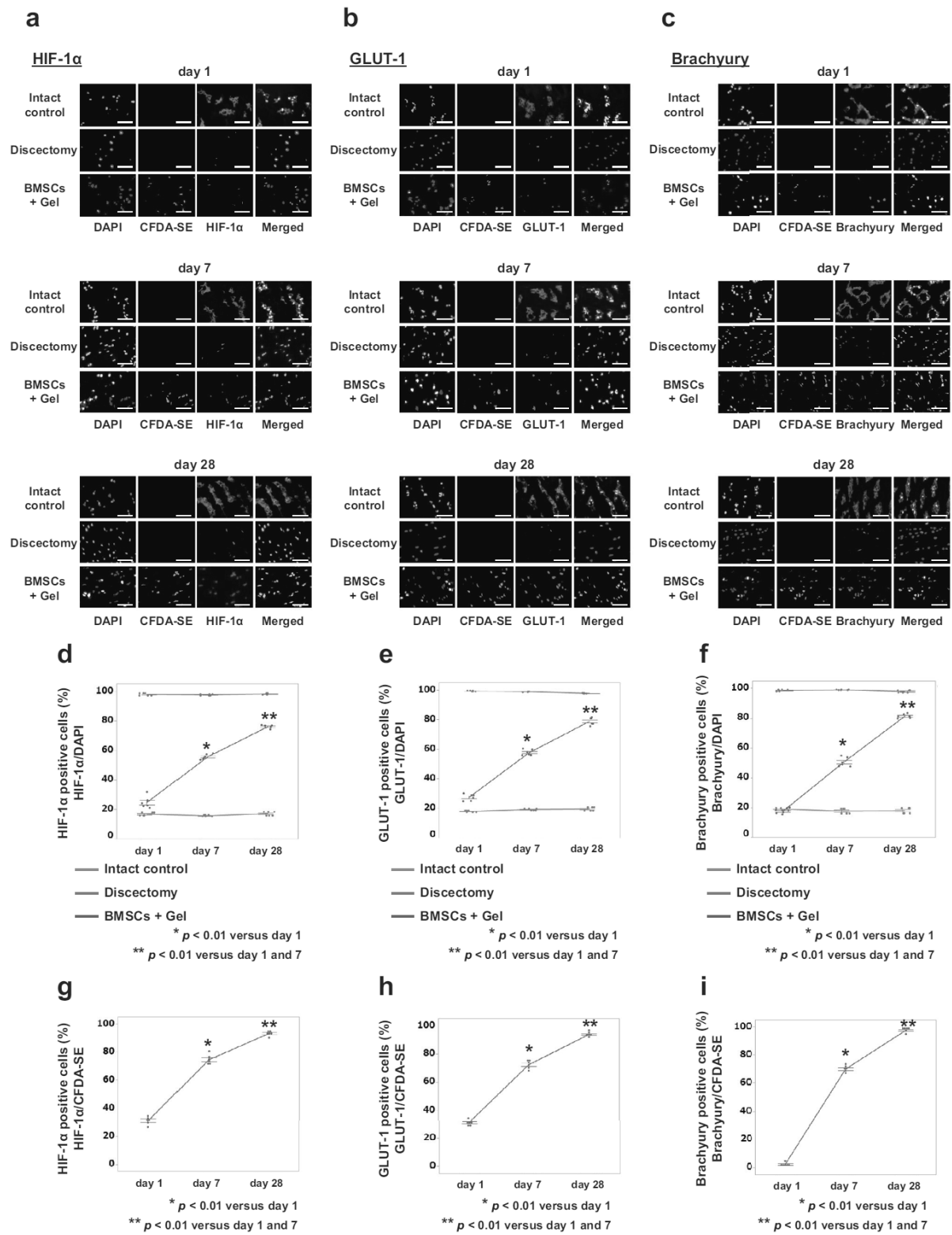


Fig. 7

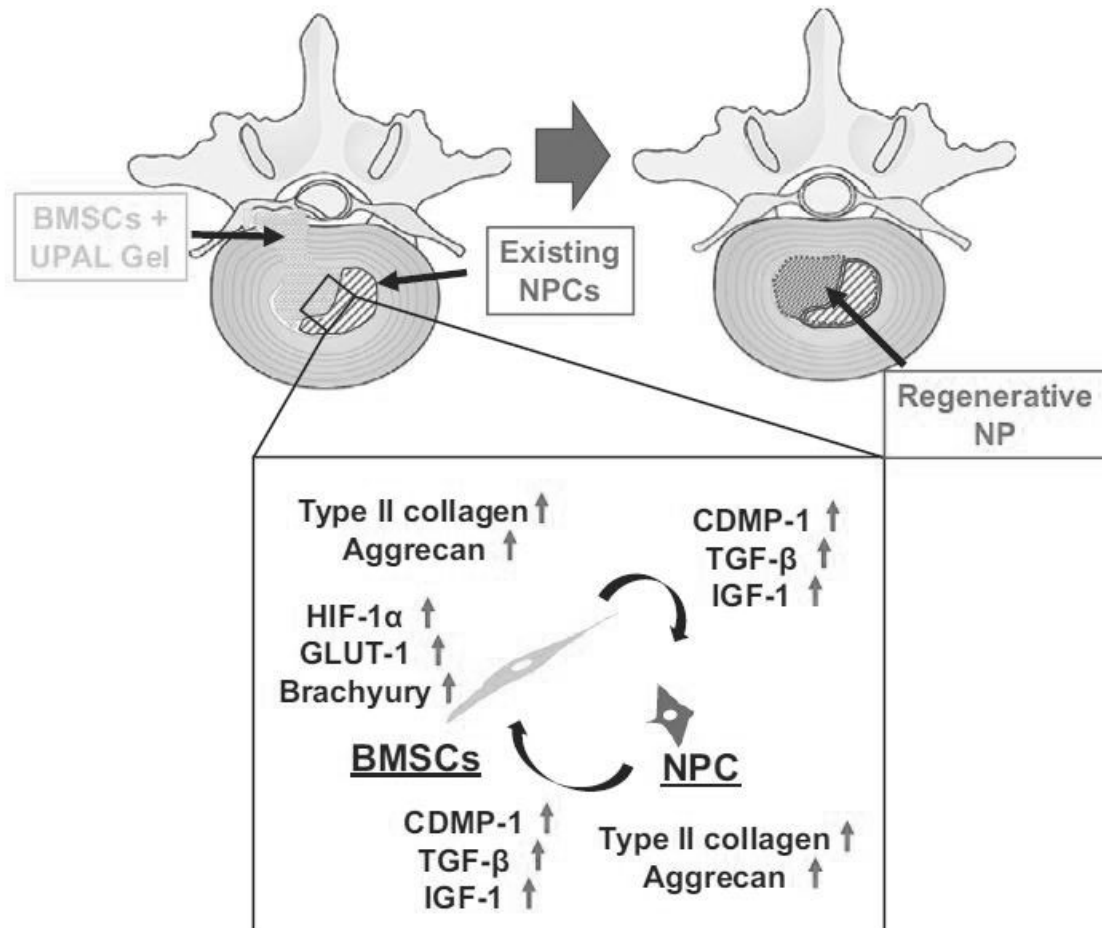


Fig. 8

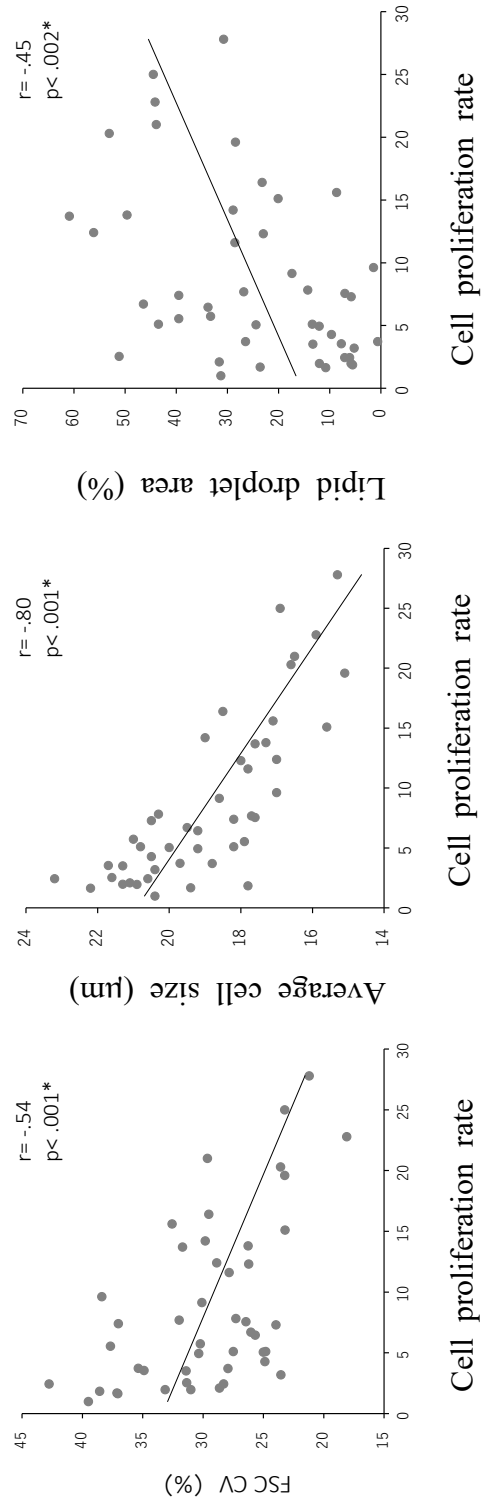


Fig. 9

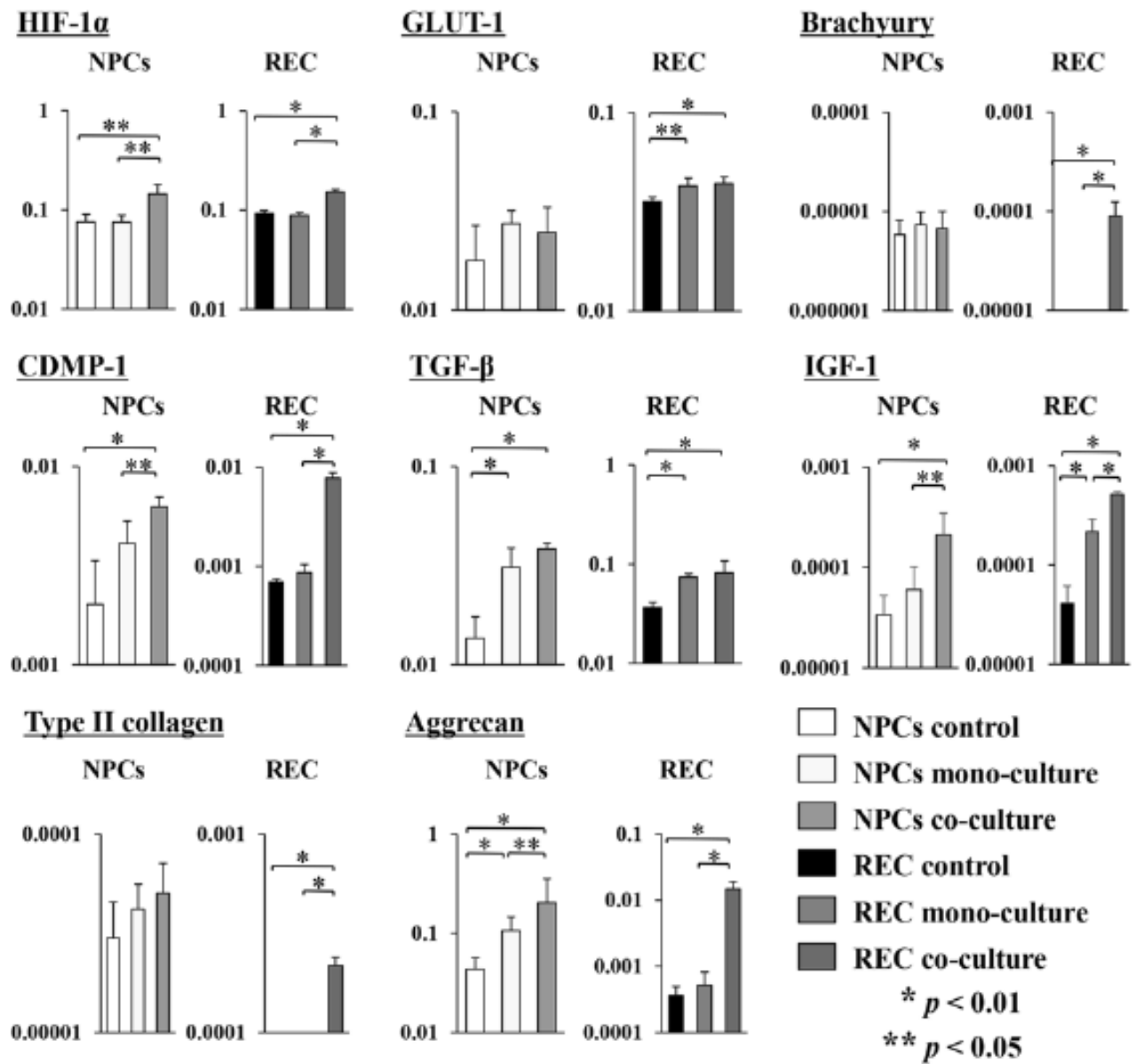


Fig. 10

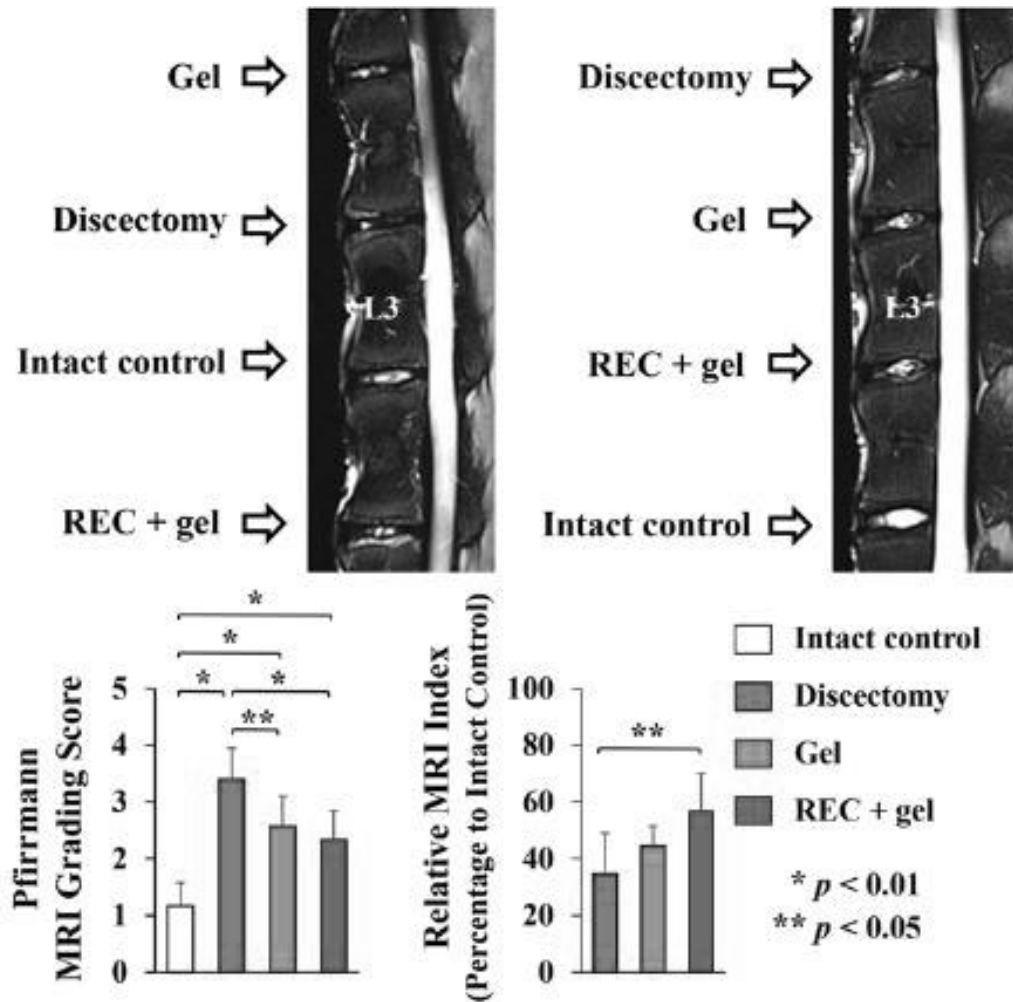
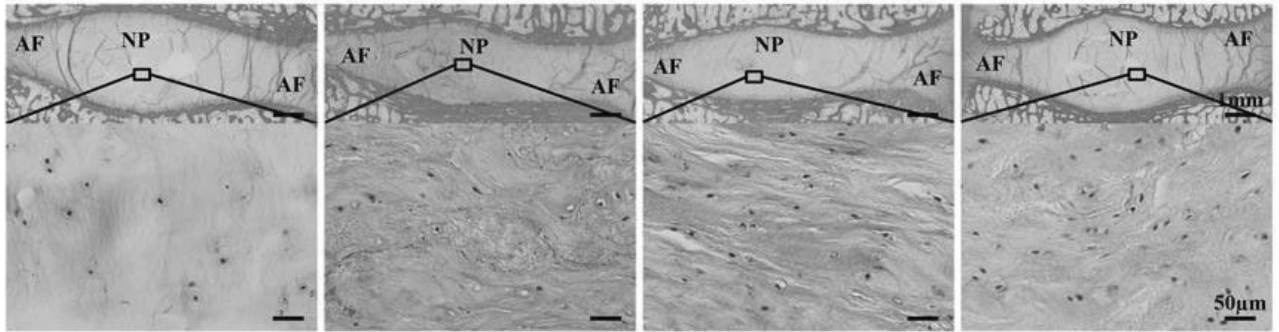
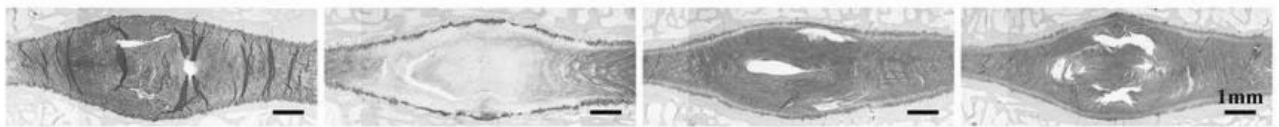


Fig. 11

H&E



Safranin O



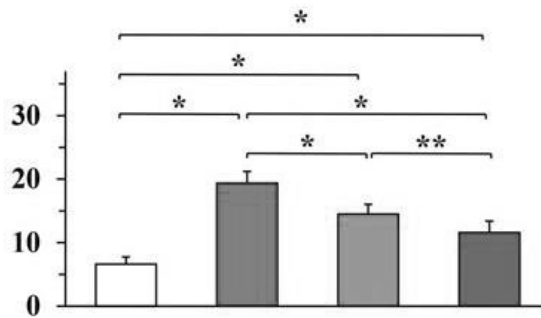
Intact control

Discectomy

Gel

REC + gel

Histological grading



Intact control

Discectomy

Gel

REC + gel

* $p < 0.01$

** $p < 0.05$

Fig. 12

Type II collagen

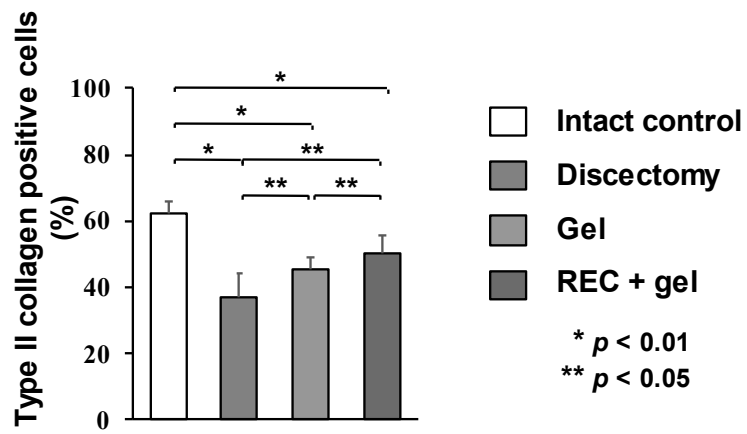
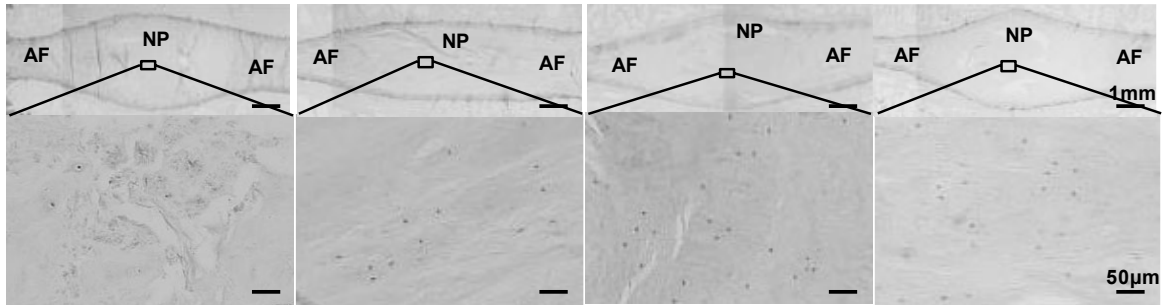


Fig. 13

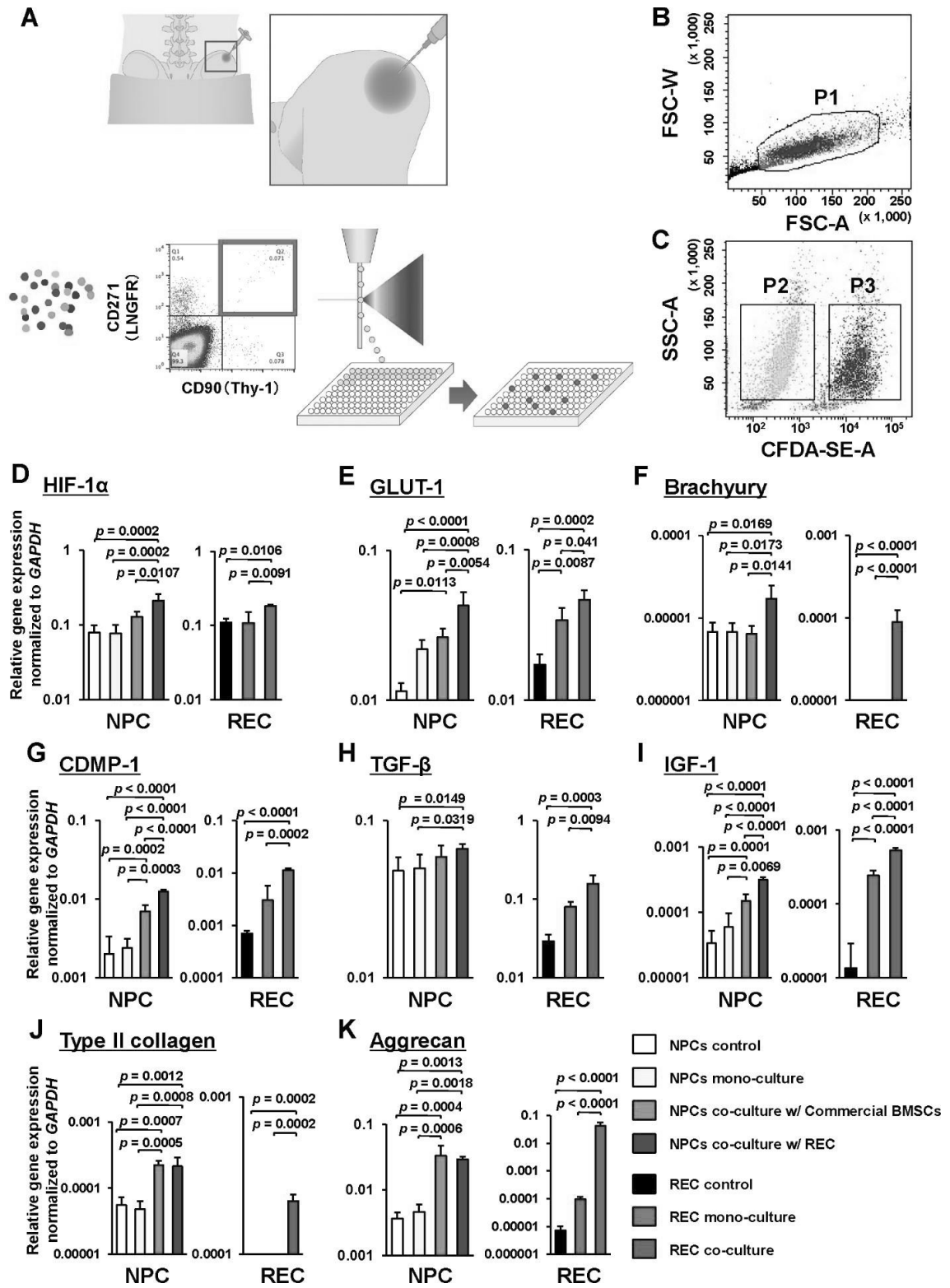


Fig. 14

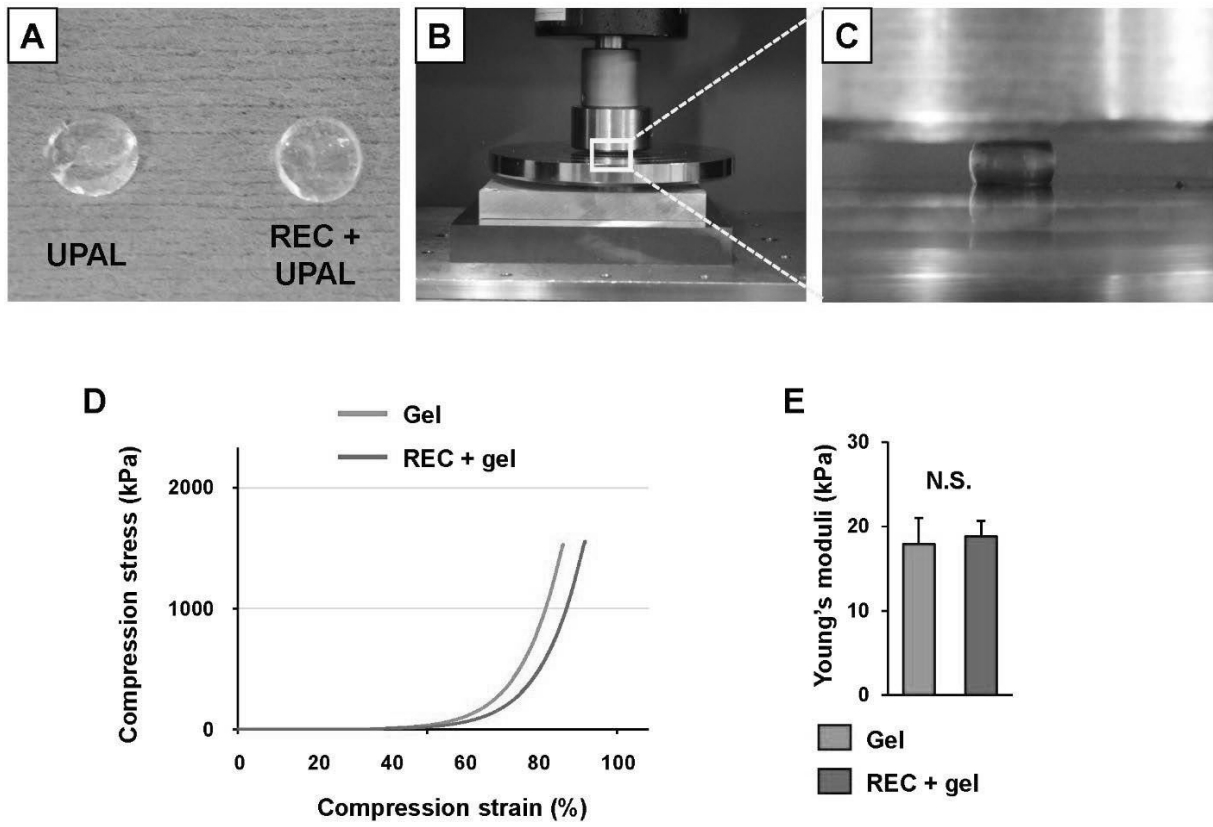


Fig. 15

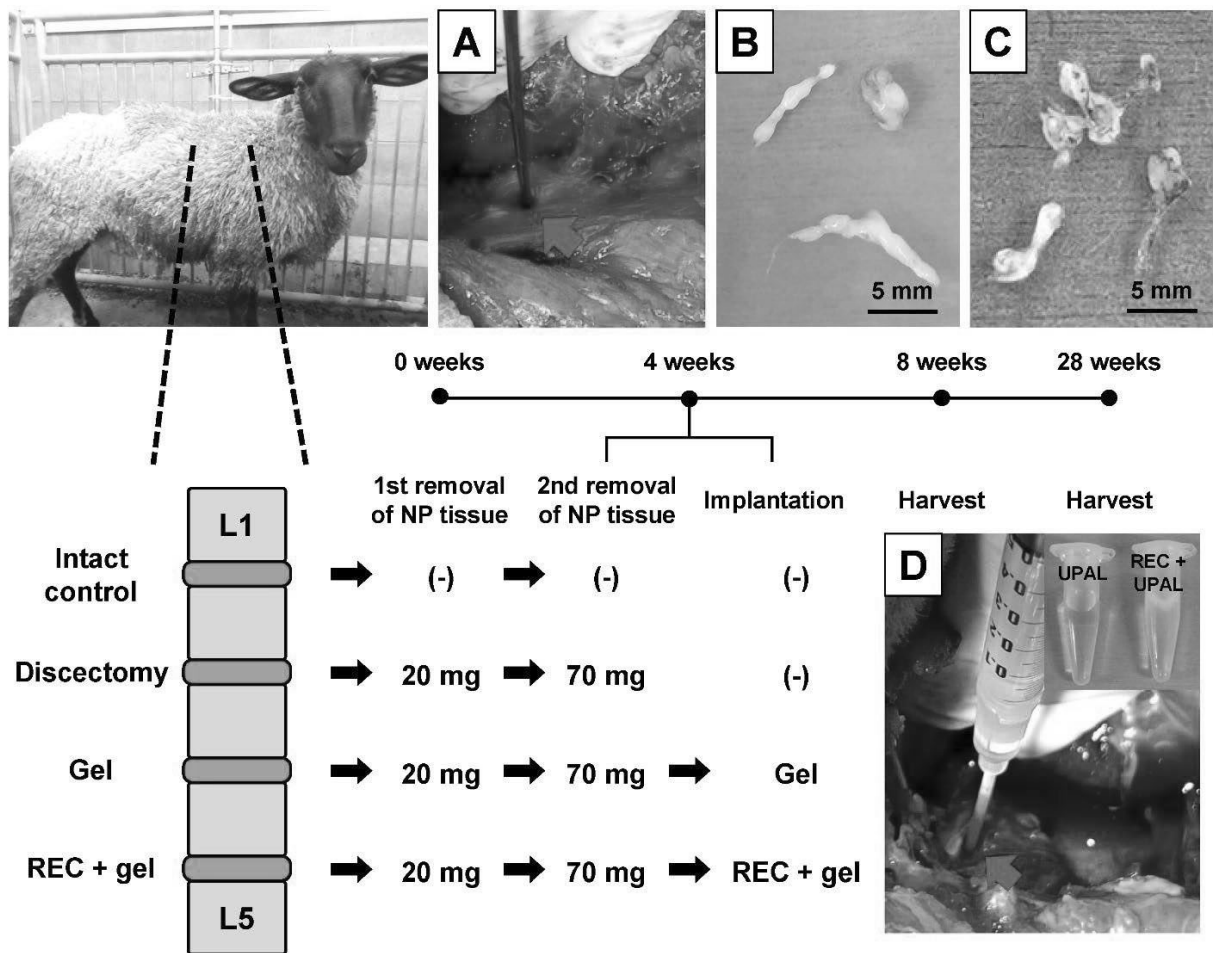


Fig. 16

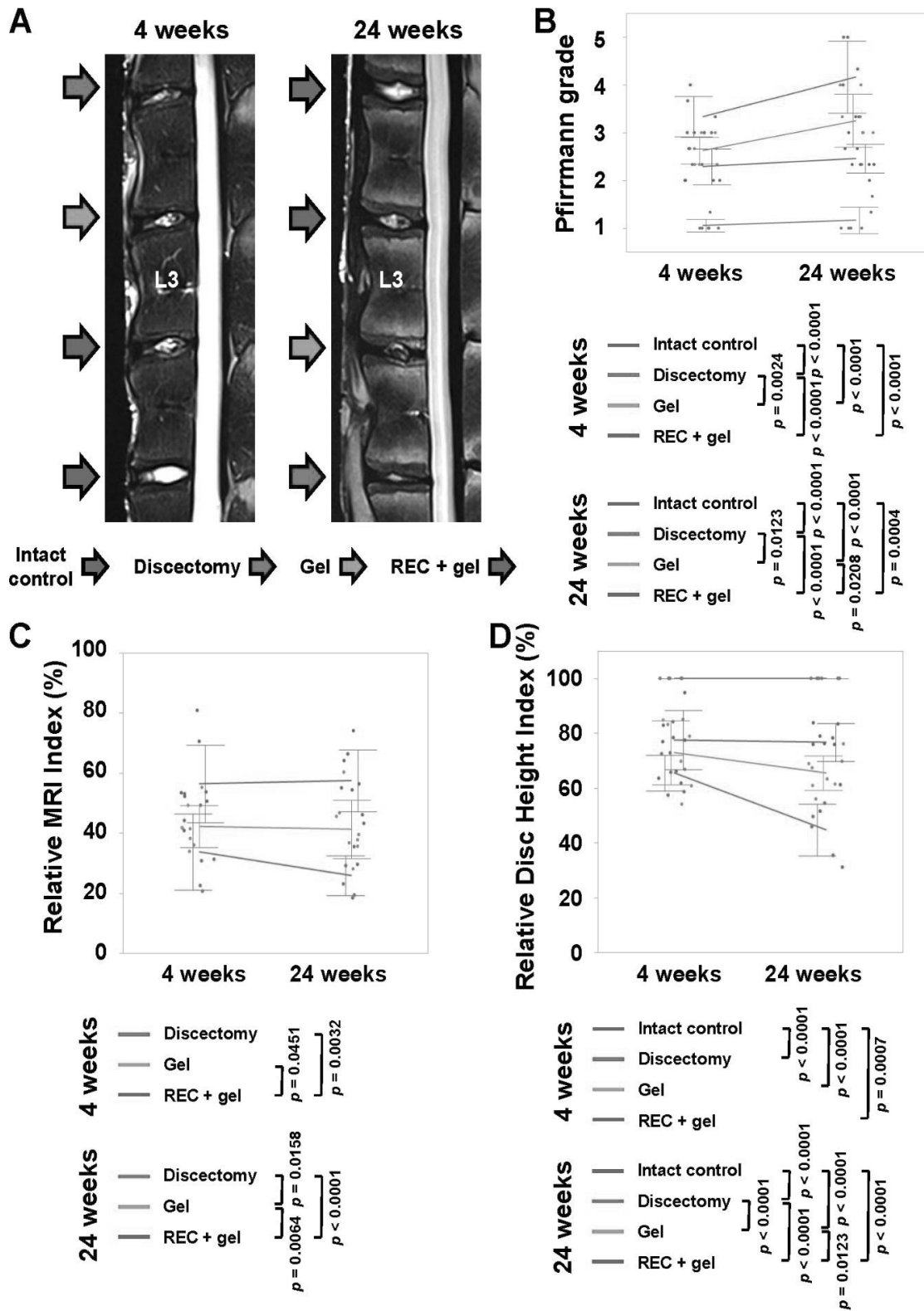
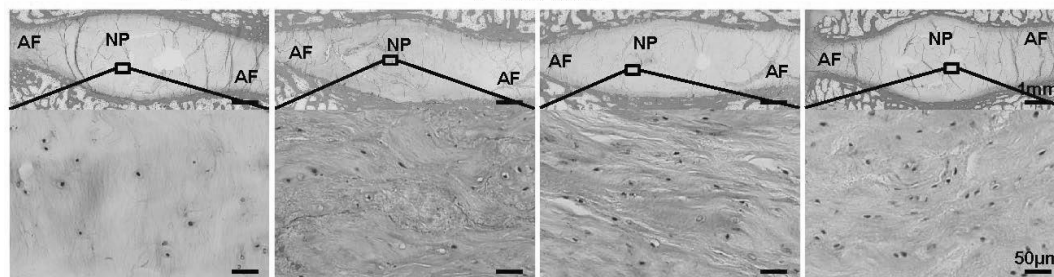


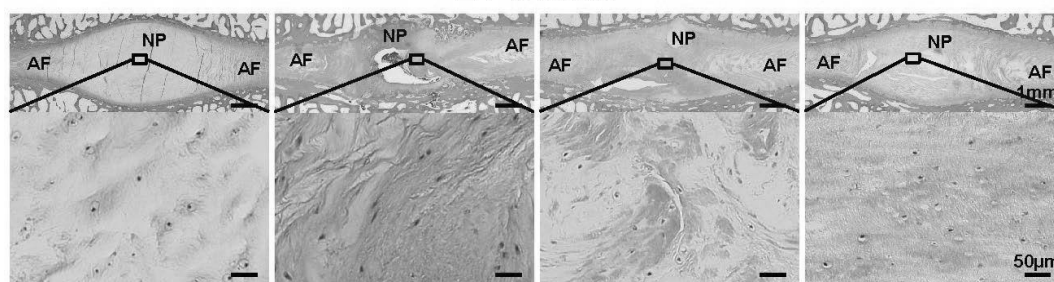
Fig. 17

A

Hematoxylin and Eosin 4 weeks



24 weeks



Intact control

Discectomy

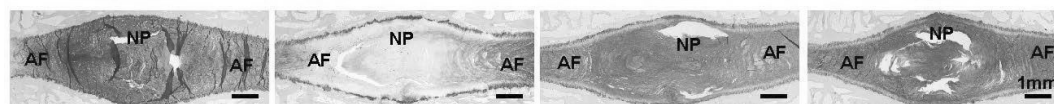
Gel

REC + gel

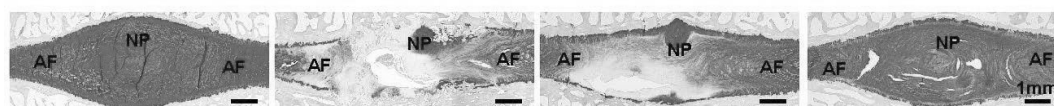
B

Safranin-O

4 weeks



24 weeks



Intact control

Discectomy

Gel

REC + gel

C

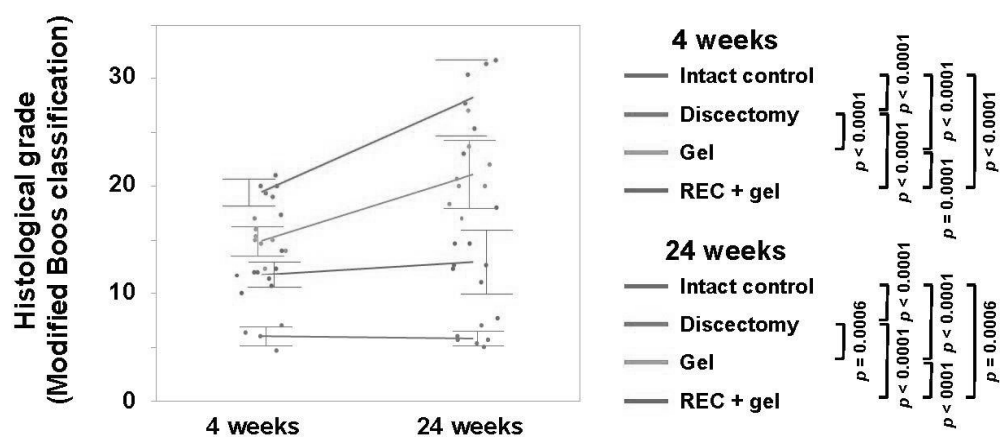


Fig. 18

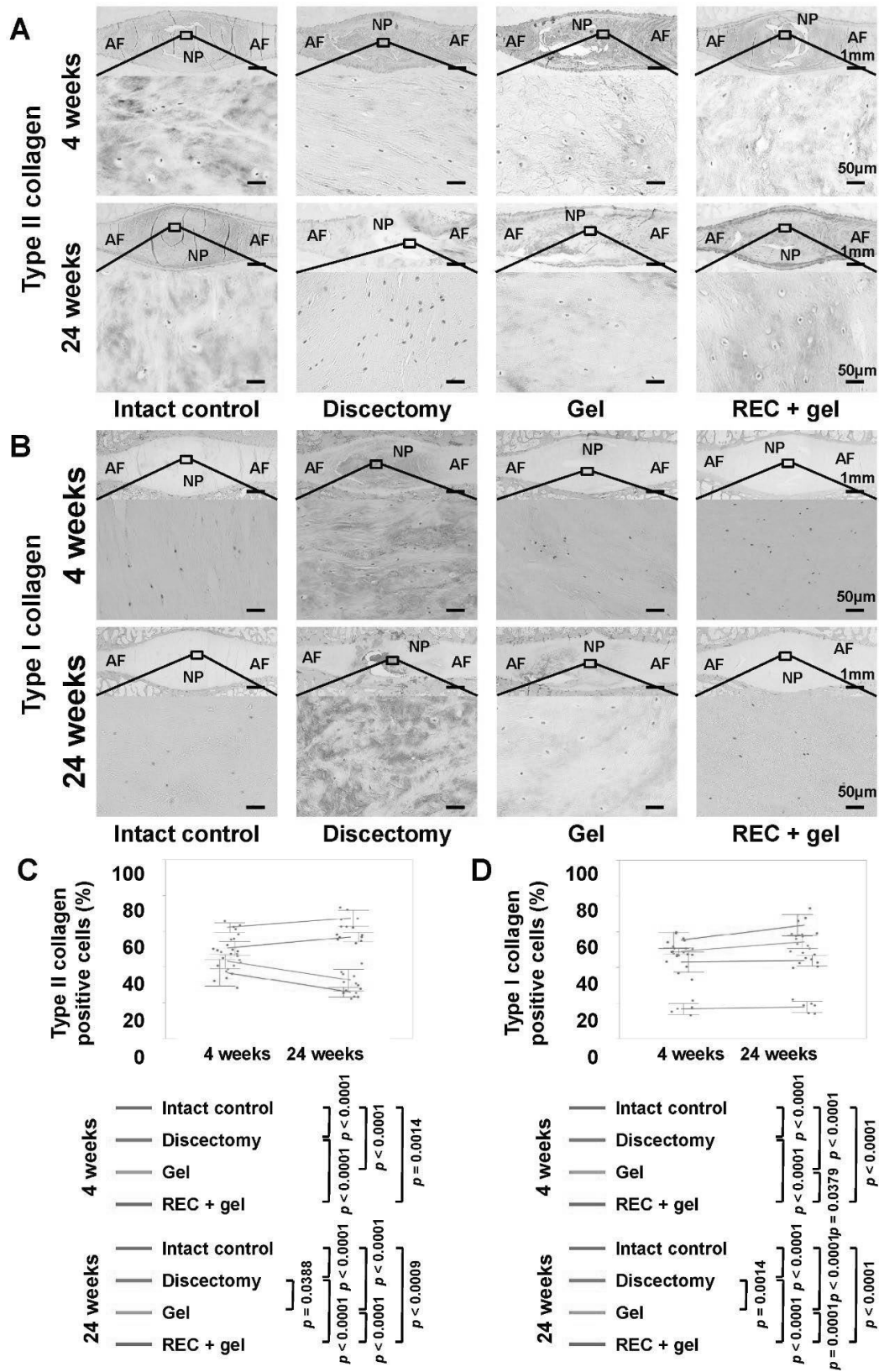


Fig. 19

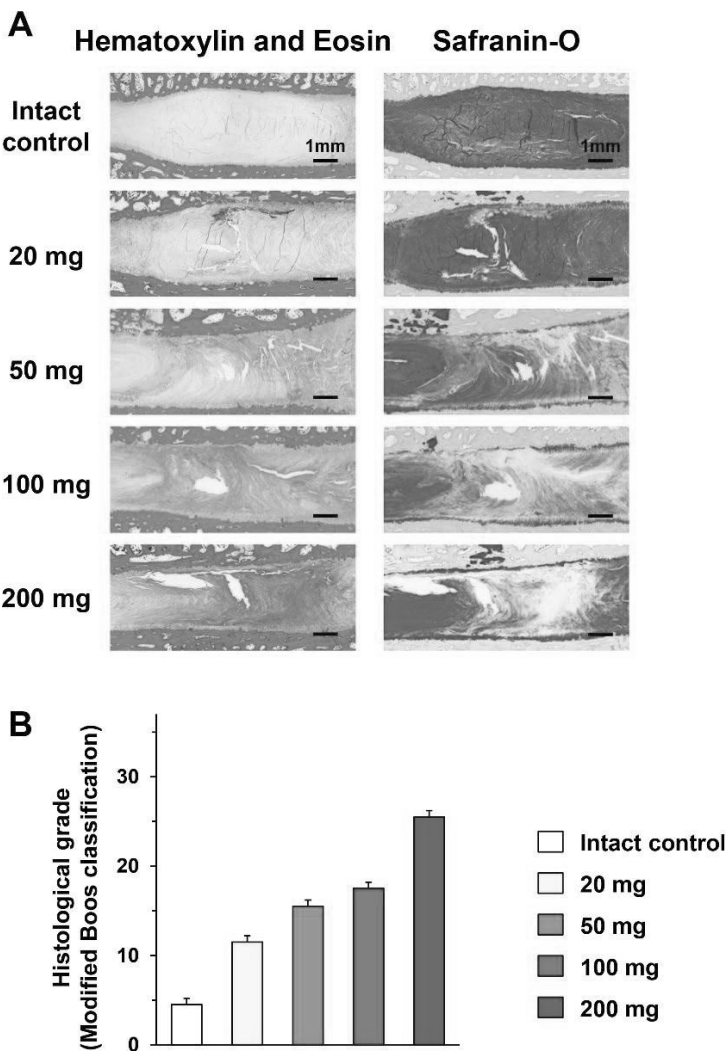
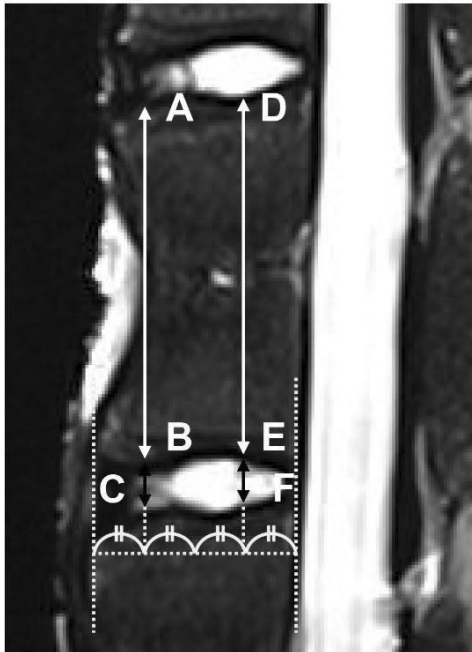


Fig. 20



Disc Height Index (DHI)
= (BC + EF) / (AB + DE)

Relative DHI
= DHI_{treatment} / DHI_{Intact control} × 100