Claims

1. Method for propagating or enriching cartilage cells and providing spheroids thereof comprising the steps:
   a.) cartilage cells from tissue of human or animal origin are used as starting material,
   b.) cultivating cells from a.) in expanding a monolayer, wherein the monolayer is placed on a substrate,
   c.) taking the monolayer from b.) and cultivating said cells in a suspension in a 3D environment,
   d.) wherein the total cultivation time of step b.) and step c.) is at least 39 days but no more than 55 days calculated from the starting time of step a.), wherein the time duration of step b.) is more than 10 days, and the time duration of step c.) is at least 15 days but no more 28 days,
   e.) selecting the obtained spheroids.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the time duration of step b.) is equal or less than 16 days.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the spheroids consist of more than 3,000 cells.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the spheroids consist of cells in the range of 3,000 to 200,000 cells, or in the range of 3,500 to 75,000 cells.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the spheroid’s diameter is in the range of 100 to 1,000 µm, 200 to 900 µm or 240 to 870 µm.