



# Pioneering a new era in Parkinson's disease management through adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell therapy

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**Key words:** Parkinson's disease, Adipose derived-mesenchymal stem cells, Cell therapy, Dopaminergic neurons

**Abstract:** Parkinson's disease (PD) is one of the fastest-growing neurodegenerative disorders worldwide. So far, PD treatments only offer little clinical relief and cannot reverse or stop the disease progression. Stem cell (SC) therapy is a rapidly evolving technology that holds significant promise for enhancing current therapeutic approaches. Adipose-derived mesenchymal SCs (AD-MSCs) have many features such as easy harvest with minimal invasive techniques, high plasticity, non-immunogenicity, and no ethical issues, which have made them suitable choices for clinical applications in regenerative research. AD-MSCs are ideal tools to treat PD, as they have the potential to differentiate into functional dopaminergic neurons, and also could produce and secrete useful paracrine factors and extracellular vesicles, such as cytokines and growth factors, and thus promote the repair and regeneration of damaged nerve tissue. Studies revealed that AD-MSCs induced angiogenesis, nerve regeneration, and memory and motor improvement in cellular and animal models of PD. Moreover, clinical studies demonstrated the safety of AD-MSC transplantation in PD patients. This review provides a comprehensive and current summary of the therapeutic potential of AD-MSC transplantation for the treatment of PD, by highlighting the ability of cells to differentiate into functional dopaminergic neurons.

## Abbreviations

AD-MSCs	Adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells	HES1	Hairy and enhancer of split-1
ATG	Autophagy-related 1	6-OHDA	6-hydroxydopamine
BDNF	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor	LMX1A	LIM homeobox transcription factor 1, alpha
BMP-2	Bone morphogenetic protein 2	LRRK2	Leucine-rich repeat kinase 2
BM-MSC	Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell	MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
Cav-1	Caveolin-1	mTOR	Mammalian target of rapamycin
CM	Conditioned medium	NICD	Notch intracellular domain
ERK	Extracellular signal-regulated kinase	NI-hADSC-CM	Neurogenic differentiation of human adipose-derived stem cell-conditioned medium
FADD	Fas-associated protein with death domain	NTN	Neurturin
FGF2	Fibroblast growth factor 2	PD	Parkinson's disease
GABA	Gamma-aminobutyric acid	PKB/AKT	Protein kinase B
GBA	Glucocerebrosidase	PRKN	Parkin
GDNF	Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor	PINK1	PTEN-induced putative kinase 1
GFAP	Glial fibrillary acidic protein	PROTACs	Proteolysis-targeting chimeras
hAD-MSC	Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell	PTX 3	Pentraxin3
		rhPTX3	Human recombinant PTX3
		RORyt	Retinoic acid-related orphan receptor gamma t
		SGZ	Subgranular zone
		SNCA	$\alpha$ -synuclein
		STAT	Signal transducers and activators of transcription

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<b>SVZ</b>	Subventricular zone
<b>TRADD</b>	Tumor necrosis factor receptor type 1-associated DEATH domain protein
<b>TH</b>	Tyrosine hydroxylase
<b>ULK1</b>	Unc-51 like autophagy activating kinase 1
<b>VEGF</b>	Vascular endothelial growth factor
<b>Wnt</b>	Wingless-related integration site

## Introduction

Parkinson's disease (PD) is one of the most common neurodegenerative disorders that endangers human health and quality of life. PD is an age-related disorder that affects 3% of the population during older age and ranks second among neurodegenerative diseases in terms of prevalence [1]. As the world's population is aging at an alarming rate, the incidence and mortality rates of neurodegenerative disorders are becoming serious health concerns worldwide. According to the latest global statistics, the incidence and prevalence of PD showed steadily increasing from 1990 to 2019. The majority of PD patients are aged more than 65 years, with the percentage of cases rapidly rising in the population aged 80 years and above [2].

PD phenotype is characterized by motor and non-motor abnormalities in the forms of muscle rigidity and tremor, impaired gait, hypokinesia, bradykinesia/akinesia, postural instability, disturbed cognition and sleep pattern, anxiety, and dementia [3,4]. Current treatment regimens for PD mainly involve the administration of levodopa, dopamine agonists, and monoamine oxidase B inhibitors or surgery [5–7]. Nevertheless, provided medications are only symptomatic and do not delay disease development. They are also associated with an array of side effects and lead to more difficulties with increasing age including dyskinesia, akinesia, nausea, hypotension, muscular rigidity, anxiety, and hallucinations [8].

PD is caused by an amalgamation of genetic and environmental risk factors. Around 15% of people with PD have a family history of the condition, which is linked to mutations in genes like  $\alpha$ -synuclein (*SNCA*), parkin (*PRKN*), glucocerebrosidase (*GBA*), leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (*LRRK2*) and PTEN-induced putative kinase 1 (*PINK1*) [9,10]. Apart from aging, which is the most significant environmental risk component, exposure to pesticides (such as rotenone), consumption of dairy products, traumatic brain injury, hormone replacement therapy, and nicotine, caffeine, and aspirin intake are acknowledged as PD risk factors. In addition, diabetes, depression, and mood disorders increase the risk of PD [11–13]. Sex is also considered an important factor in the development and phenotypic expression of PD, as men are twice more at risk of PD than women, while women show a higher mortality rate [14].

The pathology of PD is linked with  $\alpha$ -Synuclein, a natively unfolded protein that can form aggregated polymers upon misfolding. Notably, the interplay between a plethora of genetic and molecular factors as well as environmental conditions, contributes to the accumulation of  $\alpha$ -Synuclein [15,16].  $\alpha$ -Synuclein is highly expressed in

the brain and acts in the intracellular transport and release of neurotransmitters such as dopamine [17]. A proposed mechanism for PD progression is that  $\alpha$ -Synuclein aggregates spread from one cell to another and trigger the conversion of soluble  $\alpha$ -Synuclein into fibrillar-insoluble conformation, which finally leads to the loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra and affects signaling in the circuits of the striatal projections [18,19]. Accordingly, targeting extracellular forms of  $\alpha$ -Synuclein aggregates by monoclonal antibody, which attenuates the loss of striatal dopamine-transporter density, has been proposed as a disease-modifying treatment for PD [20–22]. Striatal dopamine-transporters are known as important modulators of dopamine release and uptake which act by clearing dopamine, influencing short-term plasticity, and interacting with  $\alpha$ -Synuclein [23]. In addition, proteolysis-targeting chimeras (PROTACs), which operate through the ubiquitin-proteasome system, have been recently used for the degradation of  $\alpha$ -Synuclein [24,25]. Gene therapy is another approach that aims at ailing PD symptoms by normalizing aberrant firing in the basal ganglia through the expression of either dopaminergic or GABAergic (gamma-aminobutyric acid) enzymes. Besides the fact that this strategy is symptomatic and cannot modify the underlying pathophysiological process, technological developments are required to improve the specificity and transduction capacity and control transgene expression [26–29].

Cell transplantation offers a promising approach for restoring neurotransmission in neurodegenerative disorders. In this regard, clinical trials have demonstrated that fetal dopaminergic cell transplantation can effectively replace lost neurons in patients with PD [30,31]. Allografting of fetal ventral mesencephalic tissue is a dopaminergic replacement therapy for PD patients. However, the inconsistent clinical outcomes of this approach, which mainly arose from differences in the cell source, preparation, and transplantation paradigms, along with ethical concerns, have largely questioned the effectiveness of this method [32]. As a result, other cell-based platforms such as stem cell (SC) therapy have emerged.

SCs represent a population of undifferentiated, proliferative cells capable of undergoing differentiation into diverse cell lineages. Cellular turnover, which occurs throughout an organism's lifespan, is essential for maintaining tissue homeostasis and overall health. As certain cellular populations, such as erythrocytes, possess a finite lifespan and necessitate replenishment, SCs offer the potential for the body to regenerate and replace damaged or lost cells with new ones [33,34]. There are various kinds of adult SCs including neural stem cells (NSCs), mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), hematopoietic SCs, and induced pluripotent SCs [35]. NSCs possess the remarkable ability to generate various types of mature cells within the nervous system. However, they are primarily found in only two regions of the nervous system: the subventricular zone and the subgranular zone of the dentate gyrus in the hippocampus. Accordingly, other SC sources that are readily accessible and well-suited for transplantation have emerged as alternatives in the field of cell therapy for neurodegenerative disorders [36].

MSCs have a variety of characteristics such as plasticity, availability, the ability to strengthen in laboratory conditions, no risk of teratoma, lack of immunogenicity, few ethical issues, and the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier. In addition, the secretome of MSCs including various neurotrophic factors and exosomes containing detrimental molecules, such as miR-4639-5p, miR-137, miR-143, miR-21, and miR-133b, had shown beneficial effects for neurodegenerative disorders. These properties will explain why MSCs can be exploited as a suitable option for clinical applications [37–39]. MSCs can be isolated from adipose tissue (AD), bone marrow (BM), peripheral blood, placenta, amniotic fluid, umbilical cord, and dental pulp [40–42]. Among all these sources, AD and BM are the most abundant and readily available sources that require relatively simple methods for isolating MSCs [43]. Nevertheless, AD-MSCs have gained more attention as they exhibit superior performance compared to BM-MSCs in various aspects, including enhanced proliferative capacity, greater neural differentiation potential [44,45], increased expression of neurotrophic factors [46,47], and improved resilience under challenging circumstances [48]. Additionally, AD provides a more abundant source of adult SCs and necessitates less invasive procedures relative to BM extraction [49,50]. The present review aims to offer an up-to-date perspective on the application of AD-MSC transplantation for PD.

## Methods

### Information sources and search strategy

We conducted a comprehensive search across multiple databases, including PubMed, Google Scholar, and Web of Science, to identify studies on the therapeutic potential of

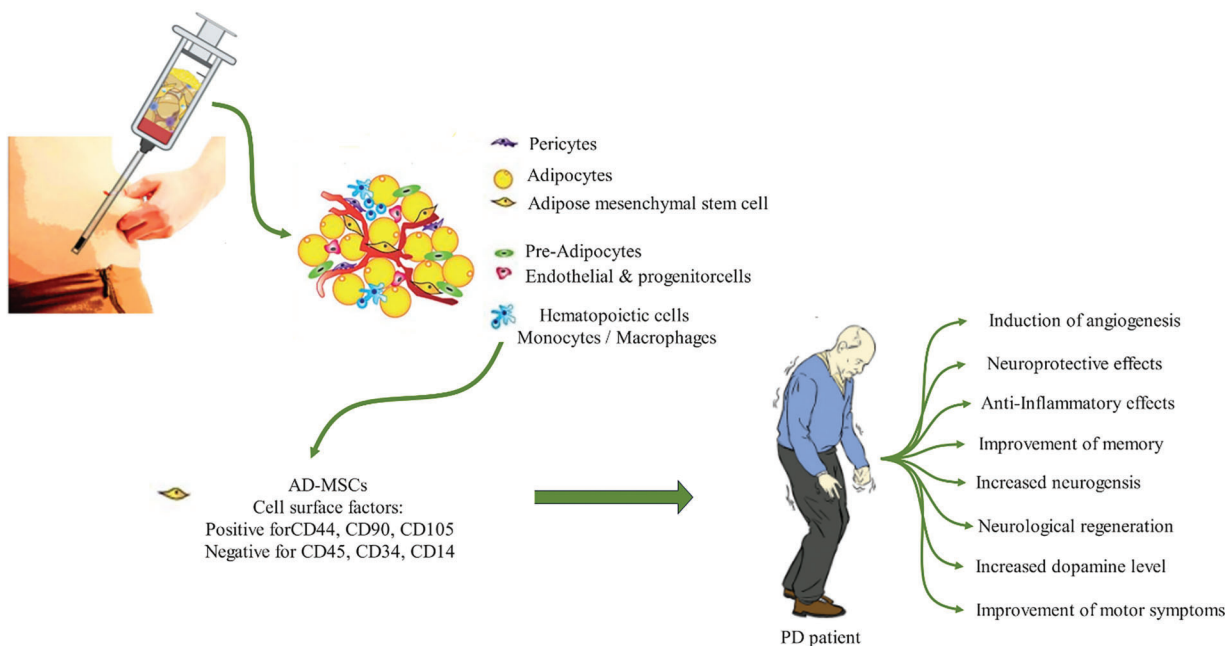
AD-MSCs for PD. We utilized the following search terms: (“Human Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cell” [Title/Abstract]) AND (“Parkinson’s disease” [Title/Abstract]), (“Murine Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cell” [Title/Abstract]) AND (“Parkinson’s disease” [Title/Abstract]), (“Mesenchymal Stem Cells” [Title/Abstract]) AND (“Neurodegenerative Disorders” [Title/Abstract]) AND (“Parkinson’s disease” [Title/Abstract]).

## Therapeutic Potential of AD-MSCs in the Treatment of PD

So far, several *in vitro* and preclinical studies have indicated the great potential of AD-MSCs for the treatment of PD, which is mediated through increasing the level of dopamine secretion, nerve regeneration, angiogenesis, and anti-inflammatory effects (Fig. 1).

A summary of experimental and preclinical studies investigating the potential of AD-MSCs for PD treatment is provided in Table 1. MSCs not only have the potential to differentiate into dopamine-producing neurons, and thus restore neuronal function, but they can also release neurotrophic factors that promote the growth and viability of the remaining neurons in PD [13]. In the case of AD-MSCs, studies have also demonstrated the ability of human AD-MSCs to differentiate into dopaminergic neurons [51–53]. Furthermore, preliminary clinical studies have reported the safety of AD-MSC transplantation in individuals with neurological disorders, particularly PD [54–56].

AD-MSCs have demonstrated the ability to induce long-term neuroprotective and anti-inflammatory effects, as well as improve cognitive function in mouse models of PD. These cells were found to persist in the damaged substantia nigra for up to 6 months and provide protection to dopaminergic



**FIGURE 1.** Therapeutic application of AD-MSCs for the treatment of PD. The procedure involves the extraction of a mixture of cells, including pericytes, adipocytes, endothelial cells, hematopoietic cells, and progenitor cells, along with stem cells (SCs) from the adipose tissue using relatively simple methods. AD-MSCs can then be isolated and purified using a cocktail of surface markers, including CD44, CD90, CD105, CD45, and CD34. Upon injection into PD patients, AD-MSCs are capable of inducing angiogenesis, neurogenesis, and anti-inflammatory effects, which ultimately improve memory and motor symptoms.

neurons. AD-MSCs also regulated anti-inflammatory cytokines, promoted neurogenesis, and enhanced memory in rat models of PD [57]. Furthermore, repeated and continuous intravenous transplantation of AD-MSCs into PD mouse models led to the restoration of dopaminergic neurons in the nigrostriatal pathway and significant improvements in motor performance [58]. The transplantation of AD-MSCs also resulted in increased expression of neurotrophic factors, including brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) [58]. Both factors are involved in the survival, axonal growth, and differentiation of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain, particularly those in the substantia nigra [59]. Notably, the nigrostriatal pathway, which originates in the substantia nigra and projects to the striatum, is critical for facilitating and regulating movements [60].

Several studies have focused on investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying the therapeutic effects of AD-MSCs in PD and provided valuable insights into the basic understanding of how these cells exert their therapeutic effects. One molecule of interest is Caveolin-1 (Cav-1), which is a component of caveolae found in the cell membrane. Cav-1 is involved in various signaling pathways and plays a role in cell migration, tumorigenesis, neurogenesis, and embryogenesis [61]. Studies have shown that Cav-1 negatively affects the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), p44/42 MAPK, protein kinase B (PKB/AKT), signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3), and Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling pathways, thereby inhibiting neural differentiation and modulating Notch1/Notch intracellular domain (NICD) and hairy and enhancer of split-1 (HES1) expression during astroglia differentiation in neural progenitor cells [62–64]. Notch1 is involved in neural differentiation, particularly in the development of the central nervous system. The NICD released by Notch1 cleavage translocates to the nucleus and regulates the expression of target genes including Hes-1, which ultimately regulates the proliferation, survival, and differentiation of neural progenitor cells [65–67].

Interestingly, during the differentiation process of AD-MSCs into dopaminergic neurons, the expression of Cav-1 protein gradually decreased [52]. This finding suggests that the downregulation of Cav-1 may play a role in facilitating the differentiation of AD-MSCs into dopaminergic neurons. Furthermore, as recently demonstrated for  $\alpha$ -Synuclein degradation [24,25], PROTACs could be explored as a potential tool to modulate Cav-1 levels in AD-MSCs.

It has also been reported that human AD-MSCs not only secrete pentraxin 3 (PTX3) as a therapeutic protein, but also downregulate the expression of FAS-associated death domain (FADD), TNFR1-associated death domain protein (TRADD), caspase-8, and caspase-3 at both the gene and protein levels. PTX3, also known as TNF-inducible gene 14 protein, promotes neurogenesis by inducing neural differentiation, particularly in the final stages of neural stem cell differentiation [68]. Recombinant human PTX3 was shown to reduce the expression of apoptotic genes, thus the anti-apoptotic and neuroprotective effects of human AD-MSCs in PD models were partially attributed to the

secretion of PTX3 [69]. More studies have also revealed that PTX3 can promote long-term neurovascular repair and protect neurons following ischemic stroke [70,71].

Studies have reported that AD-MSCs influence the differentiation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells due to their immune-regulatory effects. Specifically, AD-MSCs can suppress the production of T helper 17 cells by downregulating the expression of interleukin-6R (IL-6R), interleukin-23R (IL-23R), and retinoic acid-related orphan receptor gamma t (ROR $\gamma$ t), thereby preventing the loss of nigral dopaminergic neurons [72].

Numerous studies have reported that GDNF promotes the survival and maintenance of dopaminergic neurons, leading to increased dopamine secretion and improved motor symptoms [73–76]. Moreover, GDNF has been shown to significantly enhance the survival and differentiation potential of AD-MSCs *in vitro*, leading to a substantial increase in the number of cells expressing glial fibrillary acid protein (GFAP), Nestin, and Tuj1, markers that are commonly used to identify and characterize neural stem/progenitor cells and their differentiation into various neural lineages [77–79]. Combining GDNF with AD-MSCs has demonstrated promising outcomes in enhancing the efficacy of cell therapy in PD mouse models induced by 6-hydroxydopamine [80]. In the study of Xu et al., lentivirus-mediated genetic engineering was employed to induce GDNF expression in AD-MSCs. These genetically modified cells displayed prolonged survival, lasting up to 90 days after transplantation, and successfully differentiated into dopaminergic cells. Moreover, they effectively alleviated clinical symptoms in PD rats [81]. These findings highlight the potential of genetically modified AD-MSCs as a promising approach for future clinical studies in PD treatment.

LIM homeobox transcription factor 1 alpha (LMX1A) is a transcription factor that regulates gene expression during neural differentiation, and neurturin (NTN) is a neurotrophic factor that promotes the survival and differentiation of dopaminergic [82]. In another gene and cell therapy approach, adenoviral vectors were employed to enhance the conversion of rhesus monkey-derived AD-MSCs into dopaminergic neurons. By introducing LMX1A and NTN using this vector, the neural lineage differentiation of AD-MSCs was significantly promoted [83]. However, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations associated with adenoviral vectors, such as pro-inflammatory responses, immune reactions to the vector, and limited duration of transgene expression. These drawbacks may hinder long-term efficacy but could potentially be addressed or mitigated through further research and development efforts.

Reelin, a protein present in the extracellular matrix, plays an important role in brain development by regulating cell migration, influencing dendritogenesis, and modulating synaptic transmission. Notably, reelin suppresses  $\alpha$ -Synuclein accumulation, promotes the survival and proliferation of AD-MSCs, and prevents premature cellular aging, an accelerated process characterized by the accumulation of senescent cells and the loss of cellular function and regenerative capacity [84]. Given these findings, reelin holds significant promise as both a factor for

enhancing the functional capabilities of AD-MSCs, and as a therapeutic component for reducing  $\alpha$ -Synuclein aggregation [85].

In the study conducted by Moriyama et al, it has been shown that oxidative stress induced by buthionine sulfoximine in human AD-multilineage progenitor cells (hAD-MPCs) resulted in p38 MAPK activation, which then led to bone morphogenetic protein (BMP2) and fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2) secretion and subsequently facilitated neural differentiation [86]. BMP2 and FGF play critical roles in neural differentiation, particularly in the differentiation of NSCs into dopaminergic neurons.

Conditioned medium (CM) from AD-MSCs is the culture supernatant containing a mixture of secreted chemokines, cytokines, growth factors, hormones, microvesicles, and exosomes with valuable therapeutic potentials. Studies have highlighted the significance of CM derived from AD-MSCs for neural induction, in comparison to CM from undifferentiated MSCs. CM obtained from neural-induced SCs can impact the regulation of the mTOR signaling pathway, which is known to play a crucial role in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, as well as in neural development and autophagic functions [87]. CM derived from neutralized AD-MSCs, which were cells with eliminated or reduced ability for differentiation, has demonstrated the ability to enhance the phosphorylation of mTORC1 and mTORC2, contributing to the increased survival of dopaminergic neurons. Moreover, CM exerted effects on PKB/AKT, unc-51 like autophagy activating kinase 1 (ULK1), extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK), as well as autophagy-related genes (ATG), and lysosomal proteins, leading to the regulation of autophagy, a

natural process that maintains cellular homeostasis [88]. In addition to its protective properties against cell death induced by oxidative stress and autophagy, CM has shown potential in reducing the phosphorylation and oligomerization of  $\alpha$ -Synuclein during rotenone-induced toxicity [89].

Melatonin exhibits various pharmacological effects, including sedative, antioxidant, anti-anxiety, anti-depressant, anti-seizure, and pain-relieving properties. Moreover, melatonin has anti-apoptotic effects, as it inhibits the release of cytochrome c, which is a crucial step in the apoptotic process. Studies have revealed melatonin's role in preventing apoptosis by neutralizing free radicals [90,91]. In the context of SC therapy, transplanted cells often face challenges such as oxidative stress, nutrient deprivation, and apoptosis, leading to limited survival at the transplant site. Enhancing cell survival is, therefore, of crucial importance for maximizing therapeutic benefits. Research on PD animal models demonstrated that combining the transplantation of dopaminergic neurons derived from AD-MSCs with melatonin treatment significantly improved the survival of transplanted neurons. This synergistic approach holds promise for enhancing the efficacy of cell-based therapies [92].

miR-188-3p, a key factor secreted by AD-MSCs, possesses therapeutic potential in PD by targeting NLRP3 and CDK5 pathways, both of which play important roles in the regulation of inflammation and neurodegeneration [93,94]. It has been reported that administration of exosomes enriched with miR-188-3p significantly enhanced cell proliferation *in vitro*. This highlights the promising therapeutic potential of miR-188-3p in PD treatment and underscores the potential of exosome-based therapies for the improvement of therapeutic outcomes [95].

TABLE 1

## A summary of studies utilizing AD-MSCs for PD treatment

No.	Study platform	Study type	Findings	Reference
1	hAD-MSCs	<i>In vitro</i>	Induction of differentiation into dopaminergic neurons using a cocktail of neurotrophic factors.	[53]
2	hAD-MSCs	<i>In vitro</i>	During differentiation into dopaminergic neurons, the expression of caveolin-1 was decreased.	[52]
3	Human peripheral blood CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells co-cultured with hAD-MSCs (ratio of 4:1)	<i>In vitro</i>	AD-MSCs suppressed the production of T helper 17 cells by reducing the expression of IL-6R, IL-23R, and ROR $\gamma$ t, and induced a functional regulatory CD4 <sup>+</sup> CD25 <sup>+</sup> Foxp3 <sup>+</sup> T cell phenotype.	[72]
4	Co-culture of the hAD-MSCs and 6-OHDA-treated brain slice	<i>In vitro</i>	PTX3 secreted from hAD-MSCs protected dopaminergic neurons against apoptosis and degeneration during PD progression.	[69]
5	MN9D cells, adipose tissues obtained from euthanized C57BL/6 mice	<i>In vitro</i>	miR-188-3p-enriched exosome treatment suppressed autophagy and pyroptosis, whereas it increased proliferation via targeting CDK5 and NLRP3 in MN9D cells.	[95]
6	Rat AD-MSCs genetically modified to express GDNF	<i>In vitro</i>	GDNF-expressing AD-MSCs differentiated into neuron-like cells.	[81]

(Continued)

Table 1 (continued)

No.	Study platform	Study type	Findings	Reference
7	hAD-MSCs from a healthy donor and a PD patient, SH-SY5Y cells	<i>In vitro</i>	<i>RELN</i> gene expression was decreased in PD cells, but recombinant Reelin protein significantly increased cell viability and decreased $\alpha$ -Synuclein accumulation and cell aging.	[85]
8	hAD-MSCs and matrigel (3D culture)	<i>In vitro</i>	Matrigel enhanced differentiation into dopaminergic neurons.	[51]
9	hAD-MSCs, PC12 cells, buthionine sulfoximine	<i>In vitro</i>	Glutathione depletion, followed by accumulation of reactive oxygen species, stimulated the activation of p38 MAPK and subsequent expression of BMP2 and FGF2 in hAD-MSCs.	[86]
10	hAD-MSCs, SH-SY5Y cells, induction of PD with rotenone	<i>In vitro</i>	Neuroprotective effects of NI-hADSC-CM on the autophagy signaling pathways alleviated the aggregation of $\alpha$ -Synuclein in PD.	[87]
11	Rat AD-MSCs, SH-SY5Y cells, induction of PD with 6-OHDA	<i>In vitro</i>	Hydrogel was suitable for the secretome from AD-MSCs.	[96]
12	Rat, hAD-MSCs, induction of PD with 6-OHDA	<i>In vivo</i>	AD-MSCs survived up to 6 months, induced neuroprotective effects, regulated anti-inflammatory cytokines, and enhanced neurogenesis and memory.	[57]
13	Mice, hAD-MSC, induction of PD with 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine	<i>In vivo</i>	Increase of neurotrophic factors such as BDNF and GDNF, recovery of dopaminergic neurons, and improvement of motor function.	[59]
14	Rat, hAD-MSC, induction of PD with 6-OHDA	<i>In vivo</i>	Induction of neurogenesis.	[97]
15	Mice, hAD-MSC, induction of PD with 6-OHDA	<i>In vivo</i>	Secretion of PTX3 from AD-MSCs improved motor performance in PD mice.	[69]
16	MN9D cells, adipose tissues obtained from euthanized C57BL/6 mice, induction of PD with 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,4,5-tetrahydropyridine	<i>In vivo</i>	miR-188-3p-enriched exosomes suppressed autophagy and pyroptosis, whereas they increased proliferation via targeting CDK5 and NLRP3.	[95]
17	Mice, hAD-MSC, induction of PD with 6-OHDA	<i>In vivo</i>	Simultaneous use of GDNF along with AD-MSCs improved the effectiveness of cell therapy.	[80]
18	Rat, genetically modified rat AD-MSCs, induction of PD with 6-OHDA	<i>In vivo</i>	Engrafted GDNF-expressing AD-MSCs survived at least 90 days, differentiated into dopaminergic neuron-like cells, and drastically improved the clinical symptoms of PD.	[97]
19	Rhesus monkey, neuronal-primed AD-MSCs derived from rhesus monkey combined with adenovirus containing NTN and TH	<i>In vivo</i>	Neuroprotective effects of the combination treatment ameliorated PD symptoms.	[83]
20	Rat, induction of PD by 6-OHDA	<i>In vivo</i>	Combination therapy with melatonin and dopaminergic neurons reduced oxidative stress and induced neuroprotective effects.	[92]
21	Three PD patients received five or six repeated infusions of AD-MSCs at intervals of approximately one month.	Clinical trial	Repeated administration of autologous AD-MSCs was safe and feasible.	[54]

Adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (AD-MSCs), Protein kinase B (PKB/AKT), Bone morphogenetic protein 2 (BMP-2), Extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK), Fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2), Forkhead box p3 (Foxp3), Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF), Human adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell (hAD-MSC), 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA), Mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK), Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR), Neurogenic differentiation of human adipose-derived stem cell-conditioned medium (NI-hADSC-CM),

Neurturin (NTN), Parkinson's disease (PD), Tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), Pentraxin3 (PTX 3).

## Conclusion

SC therapy encompasses two primary aspects in PD treatment: firstly, the ability to differentiate into diverse nerve cell types, including dopaminergic cells, and secondly, the secretion of bioactive molecules such as growth factors, cytokines, and non-coding RNAs like miRNA. AD-MSCs

stand out among SC sources owing to their favorable attributes and widespread usage in nerve regeneration medicine. Researchers strive to optimize SC-based treatments for PD, addressing safety concerns such as unintended tumor formation, irreversible changes, hazardous factor transmission, unwarranted differentiation, impurity, and misidentification of SCs. Utilizing CM and biomaterial-based strategies can help manage these issues. On the other hand, enhanced therapeutic efficacy can be achieved through methods like gene therapy or employing natural compounds that boost growth factor secretion or improve the survival rate of transplanted SCs. Phytochemicals, such as phenolic acids, polyphenols, flavonoids, and terpenoids, display additional benefits for PD treatment by stimulating the production of neurotrophins, such as BDNF, and NGF, regulating signal transduction pathways involved in neural differentiation like Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin and MAPK, and regulating the expression of neural-specific genes like Nestin, and GFAP [98–100]. Lastly, incorporating healthy lifestyle practices like regular physical activity alongside cell therapy offers promise for strengthening the treatment process. Such routines positively impact the nervous system and aid in managing PD.

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**Availability of Data and Materials:** The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding authors.

**Ethics Approval:** Not applicable.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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