

Orthocell receives Australian patent covering the use of Ortho-ATI™ for rotator cuff tendon injuries

- Orthocell granted Australian patent for method to treat rotator cuff tendon tears
- Patent relates to use of novel bio-scaffolds and tendon stem cells to treat tendon degeneration
- Orthocell has patents previously granted for this method in New Zealand, Singapore and China

Perth, Australia; September 16: Regenerative medicine company Orthocell Limited has today announced it has been granted an Australian patent covering use of biological materials to repair damaged tendons described as "**Tenocyte Containing Bioscaffolds and Treatment Using the Same (PCT/AU2008/000583).**"

The patents protect Orthocell's intellectual property for the preparation of bioscaffolds and tendon stem cells to treat rotator cuff tears in a patient's shoulder. This intellectual property further protects Orthocell's novel tendon regeneration technology known as autologous tenocyte implantation (or Ortho-ATI™).

"This is further validation of Orthocell's innovation and leadership in the area of regenerative medicine and in particular the regeneration of human tendon tissue," Orthocell Managing Director Paul Anderson said.

The patents relate to the methods Orthocell uses to:

- cultivate and grow a patient's own tendon cells, known as tenocytes,
- seed a scaffold with the tenocytes; and
- implant the tenocyte-seeded bioscaffold close to the rotator cuff tear.

The Australian patent around the process follows patents already granted in New Zealand, Singapore and China.

Rotator cuff tendon tear is a common injury caused by the overuse tendons in the shoulder that is most commonly seen in athletes and work-related and other overuse activities. While surgical procedures can be effective in mechanically stabilising rotator cuff tendon tears, new ways to treat the injury are very much needed as success rates for mechanical stabilisation alone to repair failed repairs are very low.

Up to 40% of rotator cuff stabilisation surgeries eventually fail as the underlying pathology of the tendon, including insufficient viable tendon repairing cells or tenocytes, are absent. Orthocell's ATI technology in conjunction with a stabilisation will support repair and regeneration of the tendon.

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About Orthocell Limited

Orthocell is a commercial-stage, regenerative medicine company focused on developing products for a variety of tendon, cartilage and soft tissue injuries. Orthocell's portfolio of products include TGA-approved stem cell therapies Autologous Tenocyte Implantation (Ortho-ATI™) and Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (Ortho-ACI™), which aim to regenerate damaged tendon and cartilage tissue. The Company's other major product is Celgro™, a collagen medical device which facilitates tissue repair and healing in a variety of orthopaedic, reconstructive and surgical applications and is being readied for first regulatory approvals.