



## Supplementary Material

10.1302/2046-3758.117.BJR-2021-0358.R2

### In vitro drug release and sustainability analysis

To evaluate the rate of the recombinant secretory leucocyte protease inhibitor (rSLPI) release from the fibrin gel comprising 100  $\mu$ L fibrinogen and 1.0  $\mu$ g rSLPI, we incubated each gel in 1.0 mL phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum at 37°C with continuous rotation using a microhybridization incubator for 14 days. The PBS solution was replaced and collected daily. These wash solutions were then subjected to enzyme-linked immunoabsorbent assay (ELISA) for rSLPI (Human SLPI ELISA Kit; J&I Biological, JL13242, China), and these release experiments were carried out three times. The cumulative percentages are presented in Figure a and show that 26.4% (standard deviation (SD) 2.6%) of the total rSLPI in the fibrin gel was released into the PBS-10% fetal bovine serum solution at 24 hours, and that more than 50% of the total rSLPI was released into the wash solution by 72 hours. On the 14th day, 98.1% (SD 4.4%) of the total rSLPI had been released from these gels.

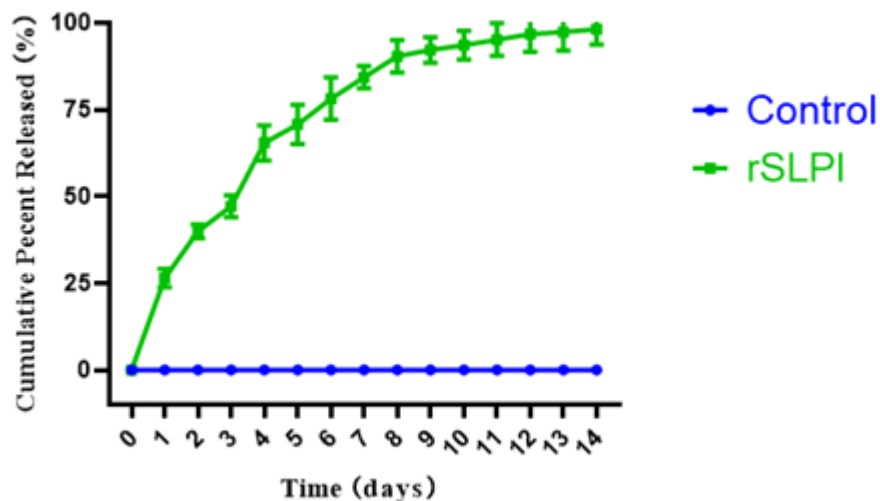
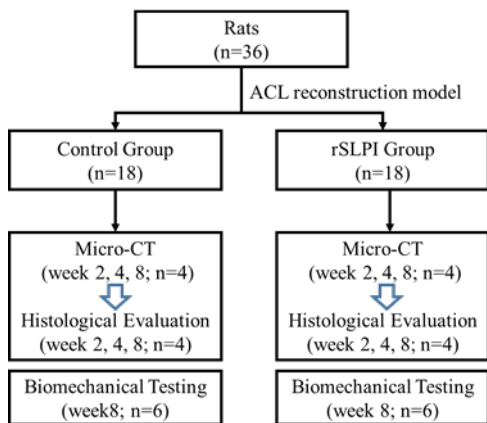
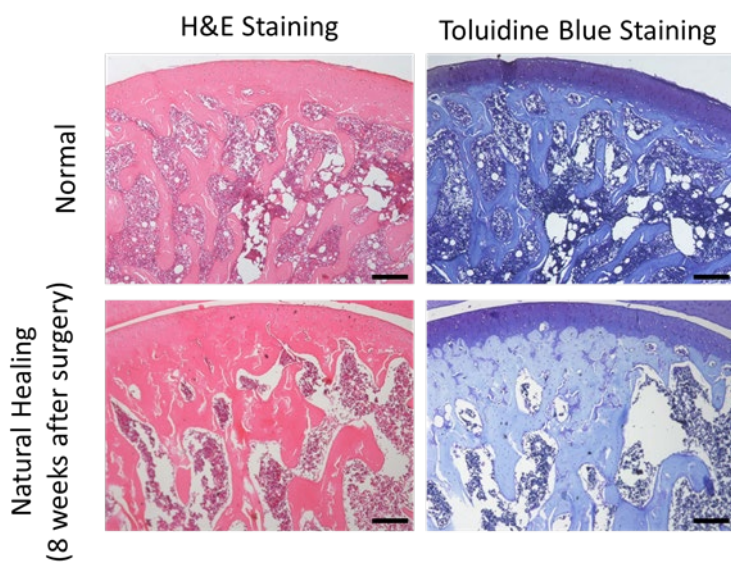


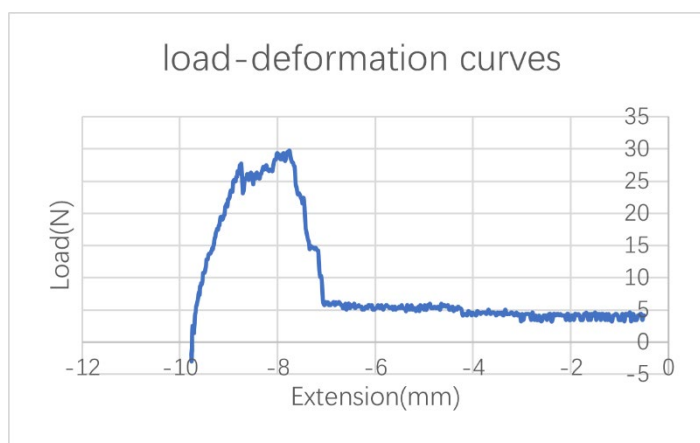
Fig a. Sustained release curve of recombinant secretory leucocyte protease inhibitor (rSLPI).



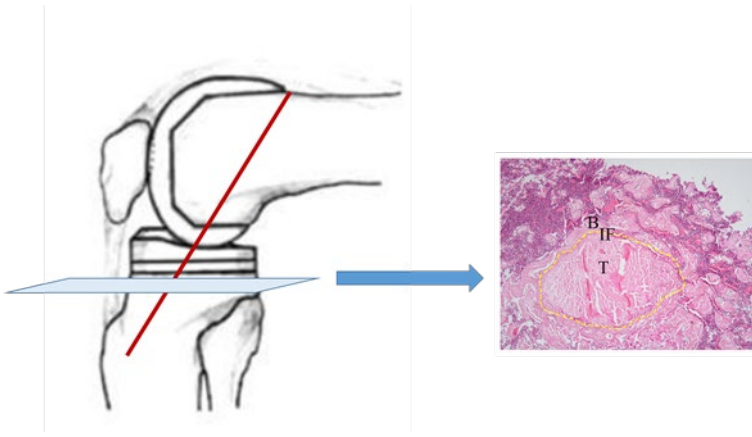
**Fig b.** The roadmap for this study. ACL, anterior cruciate ligament; rSLPI, recombinant secretory leucocyte proteinase inhibitor.



**Fig c.** Histological staining of specimens from the natural healing group in other studies did not suggest significant osteoarthritis. Bar: 200µm. H&E, haematoxylin and eosin.



**Fig d.** The load elongation curve from biomechanical experiment.



**Fig e.** Histological section orientation and haematoxylin and eosin-stained section at low magnification (4×). B, bone; IF, interface; T, tendon.

## The ARRIVE Essential 10

These items are the basic minimum to include in a manuscript. Without this information, readers and reviewers cannot assess the reliability of the findings.

Item	Recommendation	Section/line number, or reason for not reporting
<b>Study design</b>	1 For each experiment, provide brief details of study design including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The groups being compared, including control groups. If no control group has been used, the rationale should be stated.</li> <li>b. The experimental unit (e.g. a single animal, litter, or cage of animals).</li> </ul>	
<b>Sample size</b>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Specify the exact number of experimental units allocated to each group, and the total number in each experiment. Also indicate the total number of animals used.</li> <li>b. Explain how the sample size was decided. Provide details of any <i>a priori</i> sample size calculation, if done.</li> </ul>	
<b>Inclusion and exclusion criteria</b>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Describe any criteria used for including and excluding animals (or experimental units) during the experiment, and data points during the analysis. Specify if these criteria were established <i>a priori</i>. If no criteria were set, state this explicitly.</li> <li>b. For each experimental group, report any animals, experimental units or data points not included in the analysis and explain why. If there were no exclusions, state so.</li> <li>c. For each analysis, report the exact value of <i>n</i> in each experimental group.</li> </ul>	
<b>Randomisation</b>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. State whether randomisation was used to allocate experimental units to control and treatment groups. If done, provide the method used to generate the randomisation sequence.</li> <li>b. Describe the strategy used to minimise potential confounders such as the order of treatments and measurements, or animal/cage location. If confounders were not controlled, state this explicitly.</li> </ul>	
<b>Blinding</b>	5 Describe who was aware of the group allocation at the different stages of the experiment (during the allocation, the conduct of the experiment, the outcome assessment, and the data analysis).	
<b>Outcome measures</b>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clearly define all outcome measures assessed (e.g. cell death, molecular markers, or behavioural changes).</li> <li>b. For hypothesis-testing studies, specify the primary outcome measure, i.e. the outcome measure that was used to determine the sample size.</li> </ul>	
<b>Statistical methods</b>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide details of the statistical methods used for each analysis, including software used.</li> <li>b. Describe any methods used to assess whether the data met the assumptions of the statistical approach, and what was done if the assumptions were not met.</li> </ul>	
<b>Experimental animals</b>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide species-appropriate details of the animals used, including species, strain and substrain, sex, age or developmental stage, and, if relevant, weight.</li> <li>b. Provide further relevant information on the provenance of animals, health/immune status, genetic modification status, genotype, and any previous procedures.</li> </ul>	
<b>Experimental procedures</b>	9 For each experimental group, including controls, describe the procedures in enough detail to allow others to replicate them, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What was done, how it was done and what was used.</li> <li>b. When and how often.</li> <li>c. Where (including detail of any acclimatisation periods).</li> <li>d. Why (provide rationale for procedures).</li> </ul>	
<b>Results</b>	10 For each experiment conducted, including independent replications, report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Summary/descriptive statistics for each experimental group, with a measure of variability where applicable (e.g. mean and SD, or median and range).</li> <li>b. If applicable, the effect size with a confidence interval.</li> </ul>	