

Infiltrating blood-derived macrophages play a role in recovery from spinal cord injury in mice

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Although macrophages are known as essential players in wound healing, their contribution to recovery from spinal cord injury is a subject of debate.

Using a mouse model of spinal injury, Michal Schwartz and colleagues from the Weizmann institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel tested the effect of macrophages on the recovery process after injury and demonstrate an important anti-inflammatory role for a subset of infiltrating monocyte-derived macrophages that is dependent upon their expression of the anti-inflammatory molecule interleukin-10.

These results suggest that this subset of macrophages may have a beneficial effect on [spinal cord](#) injuries.

More information: Shechter R, London A, Varol C, Raposo C, Cusimano M, et al. (2009) Infiltrating Blood-Derived Macrophages Are Vital [Cells](#) Playing an Anti-inflammatory Role in Recovery from Spinal Cord Injury in Mice. *PLoS Med* 6(7): e1000113.

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