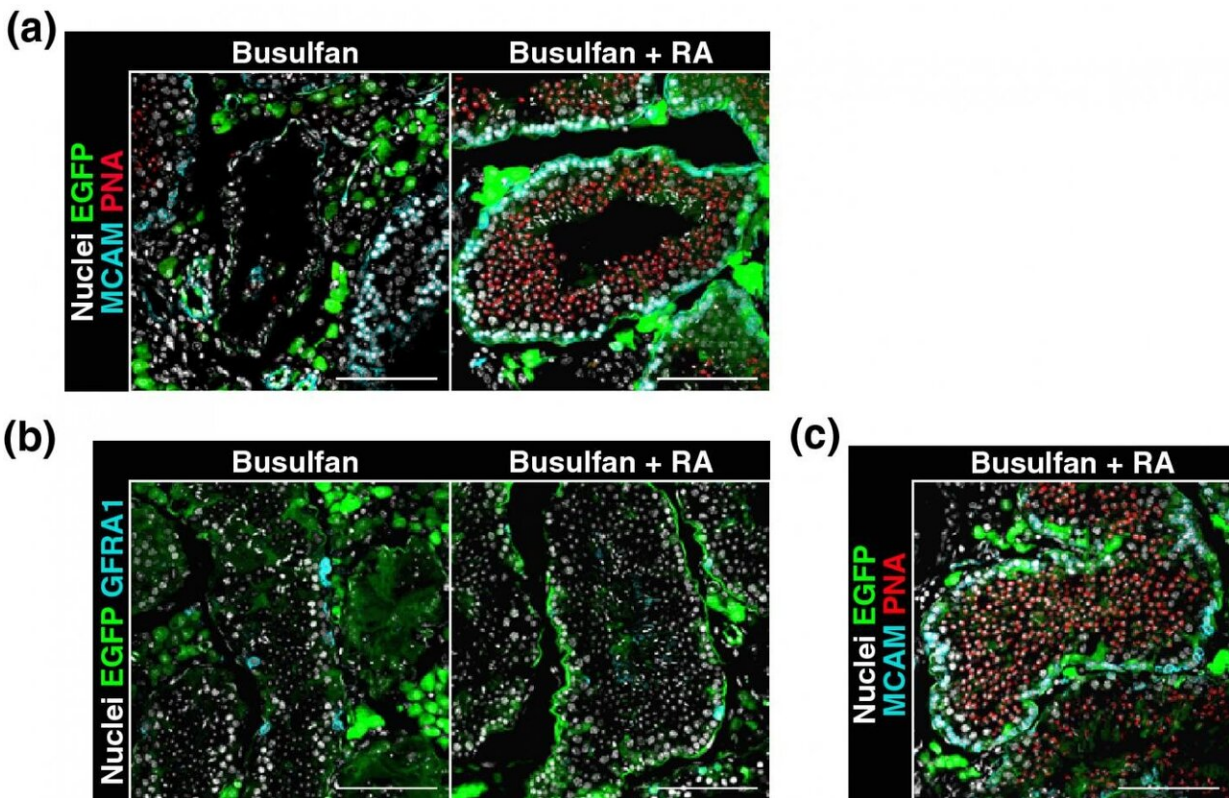


Healthy offspring from testicular tissue transplantation in mice: Retinoic acid key

July 16 2020



Repetitive RA treatment improves the spermatogenesis of testis pieces transplanted into the testis interstitium of germ cell-depleted mouse. Credit: Springer Nature, licensed under cc by 4.0

One in fifty births in Japan are said to be through in vitro fertilization, and many couples remain unable to conceive for reasons unknown.

Infertility is also an undesired side-effect of lifesaving cancer treatment in childhood.

Akihiro Tsuchimoto, Masaaki Tone and Seiji Takashima of Shinshu University transplanted testis tissue to observe its effectiveness as a treatment for male infertility. When just the sperm stem [cells](#) are transplanted, the [germ](#) cells of the recipient (individual who is being treated) needs to be depleted to ensure engraftment and growth of the transplanted stem cells. However, contrary to their expectation, depletion of recipient germ cells actually worsened sperm production in transplanted tissues. They set out to find out why.

The reason for the negative prognosis in testis tissue transplantation was due to the depletion of germ cells which contribute to retinoic acid (RA) synthesis in the testes. In this context, they succeed in ameliorate donor spermatogenesis by RA administration in recipients to produce healthy offspring via [intracytoplasmic sperm injection](#), a typical method in assisted reproductive technology in humans.

Although RA can produce teratogenicity when administered to pregnant mothers, an adverse effect was not observed during this treatment, suggesting that testis tissue transplantation in combination with RA administration on demand is an effective method for preserving/recovering male fertility. The researchers continue their work to preserve and restore male fertility. Testicular [tissue](#) transplantation should be uncomplicated to put into application, so the researchers are hopeful. There are still parameters that need to be considered and investigated to be put to use in reproductive technology.

For more information please read, "Germ cell depletion in recipient testis has adverse effects on spermatogenesis in orthotopically transplanted testis pieces via [retinoic acid](#) insufficiency," published in *Scientific Reports*.

More information: Akihiro Tsuchimoto et al, Germ cell depletion in recipient testis has adverse effects on spermatogenesis in orthotopically transplanted testis pieces via retinoic acid insufficiency, *Scientific Reports* (2020). [DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-67595-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-67595-1)

Provided by Shinshu University

Citation: Healthy offspring from testicular tissue transplantation in mice: Retinoic acid key (2020, July 16) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-healthy-offspring-testicular-tissue-transplantation.html>

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