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Integrin endocytosis on elastic substrates mediates mechanosensingJing Li^a, Huarong Chen^b, Yue Xu^a, Jiliang Hu^a, Fu Qiang Xie^{b*}, Chun Yang^{a*}

^a Institute of Biomechanics and Medical Engineering, School of Aerospace Engineering, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, P.R. China

^b Department of Stomatology, the Second Hospital of Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, 730000, P.R. China

*To whom correspondence may be addressed: Fu Qiang Xie, Tel: 86-13679471811 E-mail: xiefq@lzu.edu.cn; Chun Yang, Tel: 86-10-62788113, Fax: 86-10-62370855, E-mail: yangchun@tsinghua.edu.cn

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Abstract

Tissue mechanics provides an appropriate niche for cell growth and functions. Integrin proteins play a pivotal role in mechanosensing associated with both extracellular matrix and intracellular cytoskeleton proteins. Endocytosis of integrin $\beta 1$ of BMMSCs on collagen I-coated soft substrates promotes cell differentiation, providing a mechanism that cell sense elasticity through integrin. To determine whether other integrin subunits act the same way in BMMSCs, we carried on immunocytochemical staining and biotin labeling experiments to assay their subcellular distribution on stiff and soft hydrogels. Our results indicate that, consistent with our previous studies conducted on $\beta 1$ integrin, more integrin $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ were internalized on

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