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THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCAFFOLDS OF FETAL DECELLULARIZED HEARTS EXHIBIT ENHANCED POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT CARDIAC CELLS IN COMPARISON TO THE ADULT

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ABSTRACT

A main challenge in cardiac tissue engineering is the limited data on microenvironmental cues that sustain survival, proliferation and functional proficiency of cardiac cells. The aim of our study was to evaluate the potential of fetal (E18) and adult myocardial extracellular matrix (ECM) to support cardiac cells. Acellular three-dimensional (3D) bioscaffolds were obtained by parallel decellularization of fetal- and adult-heart explants thereby ensuring

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