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Abstract

Tissue damage and inflammation are important triggers for regeneration and fibrosis. Tissue damage not only induces inflammation in general, it also determines the type and polarization of inflammation by recruiting and activating a variety of different cells types of the innate and adaptive immune system. This review focuses on the pathways leading from tissue damage to inflammation, from inflammation to fibrosis and from fibrosis to function. It covers the pro- and antifibrotic properties of immunological mediators released from T cells, monocytes/macrophages, innate lymphoid cells, basophils and eosinophils and takes into account that extracellular matrix proteins are not only produced by mesenchymal fibroblasts but also by infiltrating hematopoietic cells. The special requirements for activation and recruitment of these so called fibrocytes are also summarized.

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