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News on microenvironmental physioxia to revisit skin cells targeting approaches

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Short title*:* physioxia in skin cell targeting

Abbreviations: AMP: antimicrobial and antimycotic peptides; DC: dendritic cells; EC: endothelial cells; ECM: extracellular matrix; GAGs: glycosaminoglycans; MMP: matrix metalloproteinase; pO_2: oxygen partial pressure; ROS: reactive oxygen species

3973 words

1 table + 2 figures

Abstract*:*

The skin is a multifunctional organ and a first line of defence actively protecting from environmental stress caused by injury, microbial treat, UV irradiation and environmental toxins. Diverse cutaneous cell types together with extracellular matrix elements and factors create a dynamic scene for cellular communication crucial in vital processes such as wound healing, inflammation, angiogenesis, immune response. Direct functional success of skin equilibrium depends on its microenvironment settings and particularly the local oxygen tension. Indeed, skin entire milieu is characterized by and highly dependent on its low oxygen tension called physioxia as emphasized in this review. In the context of skin physioxia, we review and propose here new approaches to minimize age-related changes in skin state and function. We particularly emphasize carbohydrate-mediated interactions and new 3D models of engineered skin substitutes. We highlight newly emerged tools and targets including stem cells, miRNAs, MMPs, mitochondria and natural antioxidants that are promising in prevention of skin aging and disease restraint. In the era of advanced dermatology, new attempts are bringing us closer to “well being” perception.

Keywords:

Skin aging, physioxia, glycoconjugates, lectins, skin cell targeting

Introduction

In skin, as the major protective organ of the body, cell-cell interactions are continuously and dynamically operating to achieve the protecting challenge against all aggressive stresses that lead to aging and lower protection allowing damages as inflammatory reactions, poor wound healing and carcinogenic mutations.

Cutaneous microvasculature is the most important player involved in linking skin to the whole organism. Endothelial cells (EC) constituting the microvessel walls allow the entry of nutrients inside the skin but also the recruitment of immune cells when necessary. Moreover ECs contribute to maintain skin homeostasis by partial oxygen pressure (pO_2) regulation inside the skin which appears to be very low in physiological conditions (1). This issue is a new and crucial parameter which has been hardly taken into account in research in general and dermatology particularly.

Natural delivery of molecules can occur between distant cells using the circulatory systems, as cells do, in order to achieve inflammatory and immune reactions. Consequently the knowledge of the skin circulatory system and its specific biology is a key development of these last years' dermatology research. Skin endothelial cells are thus not only a barrier but a specific and very precise portal for cells and molecules (2).

They also control the expression of a harmoniously orchestrated panel of adhesion molecules and ligands that permit the recognition of recruited cells according to the skin tissue physiology (3). A fundamental part is played by lectins recognizing their glycoconjugate counterpart (4, 5). Understanding such signaling requires the knowledge of sugar specific receptors, their expression and regulation. These receptors, "endogenous lectins", have been taken advantage of for many years without naming their molecular mechanism of action. As Molière's «Bourgeois Gentleman» Monsieur Jourdain was saying : «Par ma foi ! Il y a plus de quarante ans que je dis de la prose sans que j'en susse rien » - Good gracious! It has been more than fourty years I have been speaking prose

without being aware of it -, dermo-cosmetics was using refined glycoconjugates addressing them to previously described receptors that were long neglected. Skin glycobiology is now an active research topic by which the delivery of specific molecules opens ways to carry active molecules that are often brought *via* vesicles mimicking the natural vesicles delivery.

This review will concentrate on these aspects of skin biology in reaction to stress-induced aging process and its consequences, revisiting them in light of the added new parameters that the concept of physioxia brings in.

I. Importance of skin microenvironmental physioxia

What does skin physioxia mean?

Skin microenvironment is constituted by molecules released by various cells, allowing skin structure, organization and function, but also by physicochemical conditions (temperature, oxygen partial pressure….) which are determinants for skin equilibrium.

Cutaneous microvessels, bringing oxygenated blood from the whole organism to the skin, are located in the dermal part, suggesting a variable oxygen delivery according to the various skin layers. In addition, atmospheric oxygen participates in skin oxygenation by passive diffusion through epithelium and supply the upper skin layers up to 0.25 – 0.4 mm depth (6). Due to the difficulties to properly assess oxygen level in a so thin organ, only few studies reported pO_2 measurements inside the skin (Table 1). Wang *et al* (7) described spatial variations of local pO_2 in human skin from fingers covered by a layer of paraffin oil to avoid O_2 delivery by atmospheric air, using microelectrodes. pO_2 decreases from the deeper region (sub-papillary plexus, $pO_2 = 4.6 \pm 1.1$ %) to the more superficial region of the skin ($pO_2 = 1.1 \pm 0.4$ %). In addition to oxygen distribution according to skin depth, imaging using a hypoxia marker (8) allowed to identify a very low pO_2 in specific skin dermal structures such as sebaceous glands ($pO_2 = 0.1 \pm 1.3$%) or hair follicles ($pO_2 = 0.1 \pm 0.8$%). Consequently, skin physiological pO_2, what we called «physioxia», is one of the lowest among human organs (Figure 1), differs from atmospheric (1) and is not homogenous, depending on the skin layer depth and structure.

Relevance in respecting physioxia in skin studies

Despite skin physiological pO_2 very low value, most of the *in vitro* studies using skin cells, even 3D skin reconstituting models, are performed at $pO_2 = 18.55$% (actual pO_2 inside an incubator

maintaining 5% CO_2). Yet, skin physiological pO_2 is critical for several functions. More and more results such as the modulation of keratinocyte proliferation and attachment according to oxygen tension (9), the influence of low oxygen pressure (2%) on the cellular cross-talk of dermal fibroblast (10) strengthen the importance of taking into account skin physioxia. Particularly, we reported, in a recent review, the regulation by pO_2 of adhesion molecule expression on endothelial skin cells and of soluble factors released by distinct cutaneous cells (1).

As the first factor involved in reaction to low oxygen tension, HIF-1α has been shown to be constitutively expressed in skin (11) and to play a physiological role in preventing skin aging by regulating apoptosis, adhesion molecule expression and consequently wound healing (12). It was also shown to be increased by UVB-induced photoaging in keratinocyte and to regulate skin homeostasis by inducing the expression of proteins involved in DNA repair (13). More generally, HIF-1α was suggested to participate in the control of the organism response to oxygen (14) and also in maintaining skin immunity (15). Additionally, consequently to the sudden change in oxygen tension occurring at birth, HIF-1α is suggested to play an important role in the adaptation of baby skin, particularly in the skin barrier maturation, during the neonatal period (16).

Here, we will focus on another regulation by oxygen level: microRNAs (miRs). Several miRs were reported to be modulated by hypoxia but very few studies were performed in physioxia. Expression of miR-98 which regulates High Mobility Group A2 protein expression in head and neck squamous carcinoma cells increases when pO_2 decreases pointing to an intermediate expression level at physiological pO_2 of 5% (17). We also found that miR-210, which was largely described as associated with hypoxia (18, 19), is already increased in physioxia (3.5 ± 0.2 fold increase for keratinocytes incubated 30h at pO_2 = 3%) as compared to so-called normoxia (personal results). This is consistent with miR-210 involvement in keratinocytes proliferation control (20). This may occur by acting on its FGFRl1 target, arresting cell cycle in G0/G1 (21). Keratinocyte differentiation was shown to be

dependent on oxygen level (22) in association with miR-210 regulation (23). These data suggested a physiological role for miR-210 as well as for other oxygen-dependent miRs.

As skin important functions depend on oxygen level, variations in pO_2 have been used as therapy. In fact, hyperoxia treatments were shown to decrease apoptosis and inflammation by reducing HIF-1α and p53 expression in an ischemic wound model (24) but also to attenuate UVB-induced skin angiogenesis and wrinkle formation (25). The administration of external supplemental oxygen by using a topical oxygen emulsion was also reported to accelerate wound healing especially in the situation of extended oxygen limitation such as second degree burns (26). Inversely, a decrease in ambient oxygen (10% versus 21%) was recently reported to reduce oxidative stress and chemical skin carcinogenesis (27).

In several diseases and mainly in cancer, a local decrease in skin physiological pO_2, called hypoxia, was reported and has a strong influence on the immune cell recruitment in skin pathologies and repair processes as described in part III.

As physioxia is able to modulate molecule expression such as HIFα or miRs, crucial for cell adaptation, it should, in consequence, modify cell communication mediated by molecule interactions such as lectin-carbohydrate.

II. Carbohydrate interactions in skin functions and cell-cell communication

Numerous cells such as keratinocytes, melanocytes, fibroblasts, endothelial cells, lymphatic cells, Langerhans' cells, Merkel cells are present in the skin and are differently distributed according to the epidermis, dermis and hypodermis layers. Communication between these cells is essential for skin homeostasis and repair. The discovery of specific lectins on skin cells and the presence of numerous

proteoglycans in skin extracellular matrix gave us new insight into the understanding of cell-cell communication in the light of glycobiology.

The “rhamnose story” is a good example. Rhamnose-specific receptors, which were found on keratinocytes (28) and likely on fibroblasts (29), have been reported to be involved in skin cell functions such as cell proliferation, collagen biosynthesis, protection of hyaluronic acid from radicals-induced degradation (29, 30). Rhamnose-rich oligosaccharides have been shown to induce cell signaling by calcium increase and to lead to modulation of various extracellular matrix components and growth factors (31).

Another example is given by the skin specific mechanism of melanin transfer, a fundamental process in skin protection. Such lectin-sugar interaction is involved in the transfer of melanosomes from melanocytes to keratinocytes, as lectins or neoglycoproteins are able to inhibit this transfer (32-34). Moreover, melanosomes exhibit sugar receptors specific for 6-phospho-β-D-galactosides which are poorly expressed on the producing melanocytes (32).

Cell communication is also crucial in skin wound healing which restores the barrier function of skin by homeostasis, matrix deposition/remodeling, re-epithelialization, vascularization, and contraction. These processes are not sequentially activated, but closely interact through multidirectional crosstalk between cellular players: platelets, inflammatory cells, (myo)fibroblasts, keratinocytes, EC, and smooth muscle cells (35-37). Not only do these cells secrete factors for fine-tuning the healing process, they also produce and modulate the extracellular matrix (ECM) using proteolytic tools [e.g., matrix metalloproteinases (MMP)] (36, 38). Consequently, some carbohydrate structures present in the ECM are degraded into smaller fragments that are able to activate many biological processes. Indeed, low molecular weight hyaluronan participates to cellular proliferation, migration and differentiation, extracellular matrix degradation, angiogenesis and pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines expression (39). This is why interactions between cell and extracellular matrix are also

fundamental (40). This is also illustrated by glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), linear polysaccharides found on the cell surface or in ECM, which influence skin physiology by interacting with chemokines (41), but also with other proteins such as cytokines, growth factors or enzymes (42, 43).

As hypoxia (*versus* normoxia) was reported to modulate the production of various partners involved in these interactions such as cell adhesion glycoproteins (44), MMP-9 (45), MMP-1 (46), proteoglycans (47, 48) and GAGs (personal results), what about such recognition mechanisms in physioxia? An exemple is given by the demonstration that low oxygen tension has a strong influence on sugar-binding properties by lectins and, in case of galectin-1 (10), enhances carbohydrate binding.

Modifications of lectin-carbohydrate interactions by pO_2 lead to consequences at the cellular level, particularly in skin immune response.

III. Skin immune response

For many years, skin was envisioned only as static armour separating from external environment. With accumulating data, the skin immune organization gained the promotion to skin-associated lymphoid tissue and this concept has been further extended to peripheral lymphoid organ (49). Skin immune specialized cells, such as various dendritic cell (DC) subpopulations including Langerhans cells, macrophages, mast cells and several T cell types, participate in both adaptive and innate immune responses. Skin immune response is also dependent on pO_2 (see part I). Low oxygen tension inversely regulates the innate and adaptive immunity promoting survival, recruitment and activation of innate immune cells and inhibiting effector lymphocyte functions. For example, hypoxic microenvironment endorses discerning pressure on DCs to assume pro-inflammatory and anti-microbial characteristics. The keratinocyte antimicrobial and antimycotic peptides (AMP) production is tightly regulated by HIF-1α which is critical for their function (15), therefore regulated by hypoxia and likely by physioxia. Lymphocytes lectins (50) are means for

homing which is particularly important for inflammatory cells recruitment. Galectin-1, regulated by low oxygen level, diminishes IL-17+ T cells and increases IL-4+ and IL-10+ T cells in human skin-resident T cells (51) and galectin-2 may represent a new therapeutic target for the treatment of CD8-mediated contact allergy (52). The role of lectins is imperious in immune recognition's mechanisms. For example, the expression of rhamnose- or beta-galactose 6-phosphate- binding proteins defines two distinct T cell populations, respectively suppressor and helper T cells, these receptors playing an extreme role in modulating adaptive immune responses by altering function and fate of T cells (53, 54). Langerin, a C-type lectin, constitutes a main characteristic for different subpopulations of skin DCs including Langerhans cells and a common antigen/pathogen uptake receptor (55). All skin-resident DC subsets have redundant functions and promote distinct antigen-specific responses (56, 57). A high number of antigen presenting cells makes the skin a common route for cancer vaccines (58, 59). As compared to dermal DC, Langerhans cells ignore bacteria but initiate effective CD70-mediated CD8+ T cells in response to virus (60). By activating NKT cells (61) and antigen-specific regulatory T cells in IL-10-dependent way (62), Langerhans cells are necessary for UV-induced immune suppression (63). Unexpectedly, the tolerogenic properties by induction of Foxp3+ regulatory T cells were found for dermis-derived CD103-DC that constitutively produce retinoic acid (64). Keratinocytes play, a key role in innate and adaptive immunity. They participate in innate immunity *via* AMP production (65) and toll-like receptors (TLRs) (66, 67). Aberrant AMP production *via* recently identified cholinergic signalling pathway (68) influences the susceptibility to microbial infections and predisposes skin to atopic dermatitis (69, 70). Vitamin D is critical for AMPs production and its TX527 analogue inhibits effector T cell reactivity, induces regulatory T cells and homing to inflammation sites (71). Keratinocytes link innate and adaptive immunity by producing innate inflammatory molecules IL-1 and IL-8, which in turn induce adaptive immunity-related cytokines and chemokines such as IFNs, IL-15, IL-23R, CCL-20 (72). Recently, new cytokines in skin were discovered. IL-28/IL-29 play an important role in

viral and microbial infections clearance and tumor removal (73), whereas IL-13 coordinates the immune cells interaction (74). Lately a new population of self-renewing resident dermal γδ T cells has been described (75). The upper dermal part of the skin is occupied by mast cells. Recent studies prove their remarkable internal and external plasticity and critical role in wound healing, skin inflammation, angiogenesis, cancer and immune response including induction of tolerance (76). Mast proteases besides augmenting allergic inflammation display protective and anti-inflammatory function (77). Basophils high-affinity IgE receptor and chemical mediators participate in healing and protect the skin barrier (78). All stages of skin wound healing are orchestrated by macrophages which stimulate endothelial cells, keratinocytes and fibroblasts to complete extracellular matrix formation. Macrophages dysfunction results in ulcers, chronic wounds, hypertrophic scars and keloids (79). Immune responses are strongly age-dependent and recent developments in the understanding of skin age-related immune changes, regulated under low oxygen tension are crucial to our perception and treatments of skin disorders and new discoveries in dermo-cosmetology.

IV. New concepts in skin aging prevention

Revisiting the main molecular mechanisms involved in skin aging

Skin, as all organs, is affected by a natural time-dependant process, chronological aging. Besides this physiological event mainly caused by genetic factors and shortening of telomeres, skin undergoes premature aging primarily due to UV irradiation, called photoaging. Best described molecular pathways for skin aging are DNA damaging, reactive oxygen species (ROS) production but more recently translation-control by microRNAs, matrix metalloproteinases regulation, GAGs expression and mitochondria involvement are bringing new targets to cure and/or prevent skin aging (Figure 2).

UV-induced ROS inflict serious cell damages. Depending on the wavelength, different species are produced: superoxide ($O_2^{\cdot-}$) by UVA and UVB through the activation of NADPH oxidase and respiratory chain reactions, but also $^1O_2$ by UVA through a photosensitizing reaction with chromophores, such as porphyrins from bacterial flora living in the skin (80). Besides this external stress, ROS have an inherent origin, a consequence of cellular respiration. Therefore, ROS are implicated in both chronological and photo-aging but differences in oxidative stress products towards lipids and proteins were shown in old compared to irradiated skin (81). Thus, the consequences of both processes must be taken into account to prevent cutaneous aging.

Mitochondria are a major source of ROS and the target for their deleterious effects according to Harman's free radical theory of aging (82). Indeed, ROS not only damage nuclear DNA but also mtDNA and repetitive UV exposure of human skin were shown to induce mtDNA mutations (83). These organelles are currently searched as a target against skin aging.

ECM is also one of such targets, as it maintains skin structure and its alteration leads to damages such as wrinkling, loss of elasticity, and sagging. Proteoglycans, which are responsible for the assembly of extracellular matrix components (84, 85), decrease (lumican, fibromodulin, syndecan-2, decorin) or increase (syndecan-1) upon UV treatments (86). Furthermore, GAGs structure is affected by aging. Versican and decorin of human skin show age-related differences, primarily in the size of their GAGs for both but also in their sulfation pattern for versican (87).

UV radiations increase the expression of proteins critical in skin aging as matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), responsible for cleavage of collagen and other dermal ECM macromolecules, therefore are directly involved in skin structural changes. Recent studies using either laser capture microdissection of *in vivo* UV-irradiated skin coupled with real-time qPCR or *in situ* zymography (88) pointed out the relative contributions of epidermis and dermis to UV irradiation-induced MMPs. UV elevated collagenase (MMP-1), stromelysin-1 (MMP-3) and 92kDa gelatinase (MMP-9), preferentially in the

dermal part, whereas MMP-14, which exact role remains to be determined, was strongly reduced. Moreover, the various molecular mechanisms induced by skin aging seem to interplay as MMP-1 upregulation was suggested to occur through a ROS-dependent signaling pathway, stimulating subsequently the extracellular-regulated kinase ERK (89).

Contribution of 3D models in studying skin aging

In the past 25 years, substitutes mimicking human skin (90, 91) were challenging. Engineered skin substitutes are critical for medical application to patients with extensive burn wounds. They have also many applications for skin biology research as alternative methods to animal experimentation for investigations of cell–cell and cell–extracellular-matrix interactions, skin barrier penetration, wound healing, angiogenesis, regulation of pigmentation, skin contraction and skin diseases such as melanoma invasion, psoriasis and skin blistering disorders.

To date, three types of skin substitutes were developed. Stratified, differentiated keratinocytes, simulate only the epidermis. The second type is a "dermis" with fibroblasts embedded in scaffolds (full-thickness skin substitutes) and an "epidermis" separated by a functional basement membrane. This model is more relevant allowing the dermis influence on keratinocyte (92-96). Completed by distinct cell types addition as melanocytes to reconstitute pigmentation (97-99) or melanoma cells to study invasion (100-102) and investigate the impaired photo protection of low compared to high phototype individuals (103). Recently, a third skin substitute including the hypodermis was developed (104), allowing studying adipocytes influence on skin homeostasis and also deep dermal/connective layers injuries/defects.

Stem cells were recently introduced in skin substitutes. Skin is a powerful reservoir of adult stem cells where they undergo self-renewal or differentiation into more than 25 specific cell lineages, as required for epidermal replenishment, hair follicle growth or repair. Niches of stem cells have been identified in the basal epidermal layer, the sebaceous gland, hair follicle bulge or fat tissue (for

reviews (105-108)). These stem cells have a special interest in clinical applications to assure the persistence and function of the regenerated tissue. Vollmers and collaborators described the successful establishment of an *in vitro* 3D stem cell culture model developed from keratinocyte lines derived from neonatal mice (109). Adipose-derived stem cells were successfully used to substitute dermal fibroblasts in an *in vitro* skin reconstruction model (104). They were also used as a source of endothelial cells in the reconstruction of endothelialized skin equivalents (110). Adipose tissue is a source of cells for amplification and faster production of skin substitutes for burnt patients.

Despite considerable progresses in skin knowledge, models are still not perfect. Important cells are missing, like endothelial and inflammatory cells. Vascularization is fundamental for wound healing and incorporation of endothelial cells in human dermal fibroblast sheet not only improves vascularisation, epithelial coverage and matrix organization but also prevents excessive wound contraction (37). Without vascularisation, no model can depict the relation of skin with the organism.

Moreover, these skin substitutes are prepared under normoxic conditions (*i.e*., atmospheric oxygen levels) whereas, as we noticed previously, the physiologic oxygen level in the skin is much lower and greatly influences the cells' biology. Oxygen influences proliferation and metabolism of adipose derived adult stem cells and low oxygen level enhanced skin regenerative potential (111, 112). Now, new cell culture incubation systems and glove chambers allow maintaining define low oxygen tension for incubating and handling cells and bring essential tools to perform experiments in conditions close to the physiological/ pathological one.

New developments in skin aging prevention: skin cell targeting

For specific skin targeting, the lectin-carbohydrate interactions represent a way of choice. The discovery of rhamnose-specific receptors on keratinocytes led us to take advantage of such lectins in order to target specifically keratinocytes. This proof of concept was demonstrated as

liposomes/microbeads bearing rhamnosyl residues were shown to bind selectively to keratinocytes in culture or to the superficial epidermis of skin sections (28, 113).

Among molecules used to prevent oxidative stress linked to aging, natural antioxidants as polyphenols are widely used and are good candidates to be targeted towards distinct skin cells to improve efficacy. This was investigated in an *in vitro* model of UV-induced photoaging. Indeed, the addition of a glucose moiety to the well-known polyphenol EGCG allows getting a better antioxidant effect when compared with the natural molecule and also a specific effect on keratinocytes when compared to other skin cells (114).

The recent discovery of miRNA, their modulation by oxygen level, their specific panel of expression in skin (115) and their dysregulation in skin aging constitute another strategy for skin aging prevention. MicroRNAs, small non coding RNAs with approximately 22 nucleotides length, control gene expression either by degrading mRNA in a sequence specific manner or by repressing translation. Although, discovered over a decade ago, only recent studies bring evidences that microRNAs expression profile is modified during skin aging. Members of the miR-17–92 cluster are commonly downregulated in several human replicative and organismal aging models (116) and in human aged skin fibroblasts (117). It is still unclear, how and why miR-17–92 cluster is downregulated during aging and senescence but, in any case, members of this cluster might represent novel biomarkers of aging and the link between miR-17–92 cluster and AKT/mTOR *via* PTEN might provide a novel regulatory loop of life span modulation.

Interestingly, UV irradiations (photoaging) alter miR expression (118). UVA radiations increase miR-21, miR-203, and miR-205 expression whereas UVB radiations decrease the expression of miR-205. The diverging effects of UVA and UVB radiations on miR-205 expression underline different mechanisms of cell damage (119).

MiR-434-5p was identified as an inhibitor of tyrosinase expression, a melanocytic membrane-bound glycoprotein critical for melanin biosynthesis in skin and hairs. Thus, it may be a good candidate for skin whitening and lightening against hyperpigmentation and aging (120).

Modifying protein expression by small RNA was illustrated in skin treatments: siRNA ("similar" to microRNAs) have been formulated in creams to inhibit selectively osteopontin or CD86 expression, respectively in arthritis (121) and in allergic skin diseases (122).

Interesting studies reported the ability of several antioxidant molecules such as EGCG (123), curcumin (124), resveratrol (125) to modulate miRNA levels (cluster miR 17-92, as an example), highlighting new protective mechanisms and bringing novel strategy to prevent skin aging (126).

The direct compensation of aging induced-miRNA dysregulation to restore a physiological level of protein expression is a new concept in therapy. We illustrated previously in this review some examples of microRNAs which are deregulated during skin cell senescence, making them very promising targets to prevent skin aging. This can be achieved by either bringing the missing miRNAs using targeting strategy or regulating their level using exogenous molecules as it has been shown with polyphenols.

Conclusion

Skin aging is a multifactorial process which affects all skin cell types, altering both skin structure and functions. Recent findings allow identifying major parameters from the microenvironment, as physioxia, and from molecular mechanisms, like glycobiology or skin immunology, opening thus new ways for strategies to prevent or cure skin aging.

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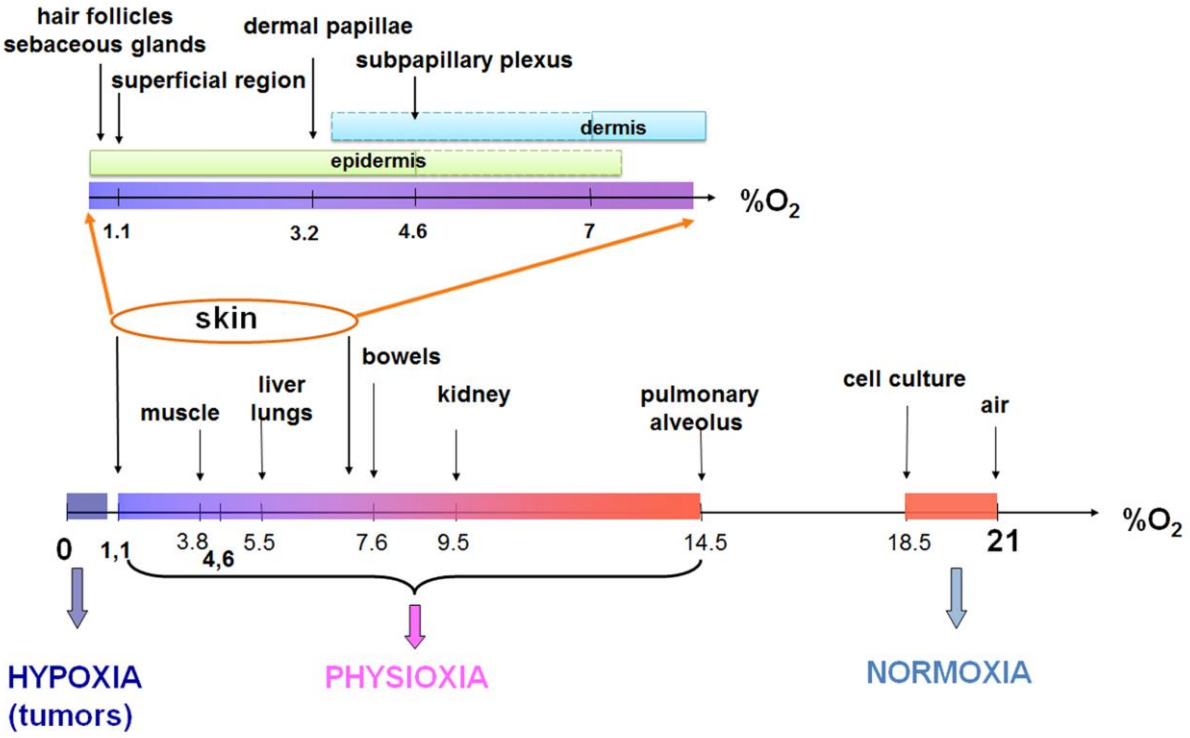
Table 1: Oxygen partial pressure in various regions of the skin

Skin regions	Oxygen partial pressure		references
	mmHg	%	
Dermis	> 54	> 7	(8)
Sub-papillary plexus (100-120 μm)	35 ± 8	4.6 ± 1.1	(7)
Dermal papillae (45-65 μm)	24 ± 6	3.2 ± 0.8	(7)
Epidermis	2 - 61	0.2 – 8	(8)
Superficial region (5-10 μm)	8 ± 3	1.1 ± 0.4	(7)
Sebaceous glands	1 – 10	0.1 – 1.3	(8)
Hair follicles	1 – 6	0.1 – 0.8	(8)

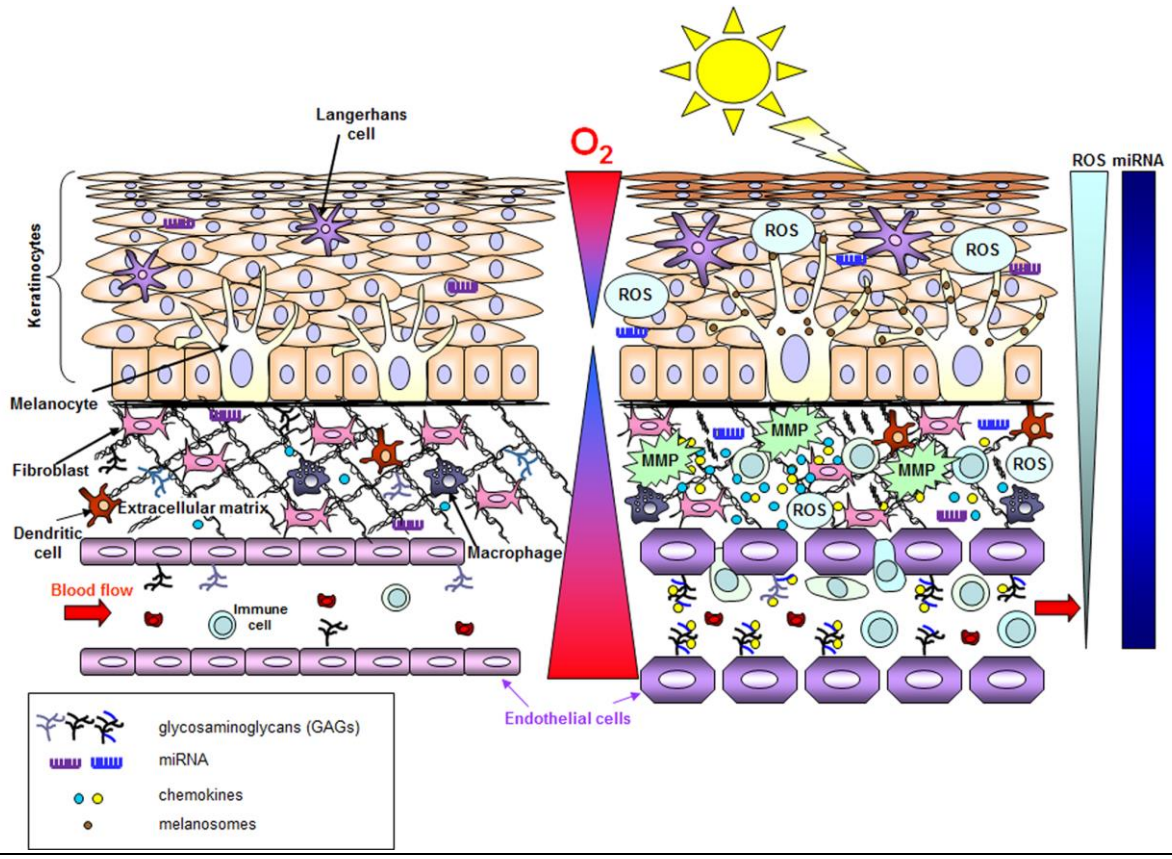
Figures



<u>Figure 1</u> : Skin physioxia

Oxygen partial pressure in various human organs expressed as percentage of oxygen.

Adapted from (1)



<u>Figure 2 :</u> Influence of physioxia on major effectors of skin photoaging

Healthy skin (on the left) cells: keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans cells in the epidermis, and, fibroblasts, dendritic cells, macrophages, endothelial cells in the dermis. Physioxia is dependent on two oxygen sources: mainly microvascularization and, to a lower extend, atmospheric oxygen.

Skin photoaging (on the right) induces molecular dysregulations affecting ROS level, miR expression, MMP overexpression, GAGs modulation, ECM degradation, EC activation, chemokine production and immune response-cell recruitment.

Oxygen partial pressure regulates the expression of fundamental molecules such as miRs, HIF-1α , ROS. At the cellular level, pO_2 is involved in keratinocyte proliferation and attachment, crosstalk with dermal fibroblasts but also cell communication by regulating adhesion molecules, soluble factors, lectins, glycosaminoglycans, etc…. It affects therefore skin functions such as wound healing, skin protection against UV, skin immunity…

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