

1 **The role of sirtuin 1 and its activator, resveratrol in osteoarthritis**

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30 **Abstract**

31 Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common aging-related joint pathology; the aging process
32 results in changes to joint tissues that ultimately contribute to the development of OA.
33 Articular chondrocytes exhibit an aging-related decline in their proliferative and
34 synthetic capacity. Sirtuin 1 (SIRT 1), a longevity gene related to many diseases
35 associated with aging, is a NAD⁺-dependent protein deacetylase and master metabolic
36 regulator. Along with its natural activator resveratrol, SIRT 1 actively participates in
37 the OA pathological progress. SIRT 1 expression in osteoarthritic cartilage decreases in
38 the disease progression of OA; it appears to play a predominantly regulatory role in OA.
39 SIRT 1 can regulate the expression of ECM related proteins; promote
40 mesenchymal stem cell differentiation; play an anti-catabolic, anti-inflammatory, anti-
41 oxidative stress, and anti-apoptosis role; participate in the autophagic process; and
42 regulate bone homeostasis in OA. Resveratrol can activate SIRT 1 in order to inhibit
43 OA disease progression. In the future, activating SIRT 1 via resveratrol with improved
44 bioavailability may be an appropriate therapeutic approach for OA.

45 **Key words:** sirtuin 1, osteoarthritis, resveratrol, cartilage, chondrocyte

46

47 **Introduction**

48 Osteoarthritis (OA), the most common aging-related joint pathology, is characterized by
49 articular cartilage destruction along with changes occurring in other joint components,
50 including bone, menisci, synovium, ligaments, capsule, and muscles [1]. In western
51 populations, OA is one of the most frequent causes of pain, loss of function, and
52 disability in adults [2]. The etiology of OA is mostly unclear, but several factors are
53 suggested to be involved in the pathogenesis of OA, including mechanical, genetic, and
54 aging-associated factors that ultimately lead to synovitis, apoptosis and cartilage
55 destruction. Advanced age is the greatest risk factor for OA [3]. Radiographic evidence
56 of OA occurs in the majority of people by 65 years of age and in about 80% of those
57 aged over 75 years [2]. The aging related changes in joint tissues that contribute to the
58 development of OA include cell senescence and aging changes in the extracellular
59 matrix [4]. The Sirtuins family is a well-known group of antiaging genes [5]. It has been
60 recently confirmed that the Silent information regulator 2 type 1 (also known as Sirtuin
61 1, SIRT 1) is linked to various age-associated diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes,
62 cardiovascular disease, cancer, dementia, arthritis, osteoporosis, as well as with OA [6].
63 It is essential to elucidate the roles of SIRT 1 and its natural activator, resveratrol, in the
64 pathogenesis of OA in order to develop new successful approaches to the treatment of
65 OA.

66 **Structure and basic function of SIRT 1**

67 Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD⁺) is a classical coenzyme mediating many
68 redox reactions and an essential compound for many enzymatic processes [7]. In redox
69 reactions, cellular levels of NAD⁺ are an important indicator of the cellular energy
70 status; NAD⁺ can readily switch from the electron accepting form (oxidizing) NAD⁺
71 to the electron donating form (reducing) NADH and vice versa [8]. SIRT 1 is an NAD⁺-
72 dependent protein deacetylase and is a master metabolic regulator in different metabolic
73 tissues [9].

74 The Sirtuins (SIRT) are members of the silent information regulator 2 (SIR 2) family
75 of highly conserved NAD⁺-dependent histone/protein deacetylases; they are a pivotal
76 regulator of longevity and health span [10]. The SIRTs are associated with numerous
77 cellular signaling pathways that include anti-inflammation, senescence, apoptosis,
78 DNA damage repair, autophagy, and regulation metabolism in response to the cellular
79 energy and redox status [11]. There are seven mammalian sirtuins, SIRT 1–7. SIRT 1
80 and SIRT 2 are localized in the nucleus and cytoplasm; SIRT 3, SIRT 4, and SIRT 5 are
81 mitochondrial; and SIRT 6 and SIRT 7 are nuclear [12]. Each sirtuin contains a highly
82 conserved catalytic core domain of approximately 275 amino acids which functions as
83 a NAD⁺-dependent deacetylase and/or ADP- ribosyltransferase [13]. SIRT 1, the
84 most conserved mammalian NAD⁺-dependent protein deacetylase shares closest
85 homology to yeast SIR 2. SIRT 1 splits NAD⁺ into nicotinamide and ADP-ribose, then
86 transfers the acetyl group from the protein substrate to the 2'-OH group of the ribose

87 ring in the ADP-ribose molecule [9]. Histone deacetylases, in particular the Sirtuin
88 family with SIRT 1 as the major player, have long been linked to aging [14]. SIRT 1 is
89 related to multiple age-associated diseases on account of its capacity to deacetylate
90 histones and non-histone proteins such as tumor protein p53 (p53), kappa B-gene
91 binding nuclear factor (NF- κ B), heat shock factor 1 (HSF1), forkhead box transcription
92 factor, class O (FOXOs), and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ
93 (PPAR γ) coactivator-1 (PGC-1); thus, it's able to regulate the cell's biology,
94 metabolism, and fate at different levels [15]. In mammalian cells, nutrient availability
95 regulates the lifespan; p53, FOXO3a, and SIRT 1, three proteins separately implicated
96 in aging, constitute a nutrient-sensing pathway [16].

97 Resveratrol is a polyphenol found in the skin of red grapes and various other fruits,
98 wines, peanuts, and root extracts of the weed *Polygonum cuspidatum*. It is thought to
99 harbor major health benefits and is reported to be a substrate-specific activator of yeast
100 SIR 2 and human SIRT 1 in vivo and in vitro [17]. Resveratrol is the most potent natural
101 compound that activates SIRT 1, mimicking the positive effects of calorie restriction.
102 In yeast, resveratrol mimics calorie restriction and increases DNA stability and
103 extending lifespan by 70% [18]. In addition, resveratrol has shown to increase the
104 lifespan of three model organisms through a SIR 2-dependent pathway [17, 19].
105 Resveratrol increases cell survival by stimulating SIRT 1-dependent deacetylation of
106 p53 [18]. Currently, aims to develop resveratrol with better bioavailability and targeting
107 SIRT 1 at lower concentrations has shown promise [18].

108 **Expression of SIRT 1 in OA**

109 The articular cartilage is an avascular, aneural, alymphatic and viscoelastic connective
110 tissue that derives its nutrition and oxygen supply by diffusion from the synovial fluid;
111 along with subchondral bone, the articular cartilage is maintained at a low oxygen
112 environment throughout life [20, 21]. Chondrocytes are the only resident cells found in
113 cartilage and are responsible for both the synthesis and turnover of the abundant
114 extracellular matrix (ECM). Articular chondrocytes exhibit an age-related decline in
115 their proliferative and synthetic capacity while maintaining the ability to produce pro-
116 inflammatory mediators and matrices degrading enzymes [22]. These findings are
117 characteristic of the senescent secretory phenotype and are most likely a consequence
118 of extrinsic stress-induced senescence driven by oxidative stress, rather than intrinsic
119 replicative senescence. ECM changes, including the accumulation of proteins modified
120 by non-enzymatic glycation, contribute to the propensity of developing OA [22, 23].

121 Expression of the SIRT 1 protein is present in the nuclei of chondrocytes in all layers
122 of the cartilage tissue as well as in synovial tissues [24, 25]. All catabolic, mechanical,
123 and nutritional stresses inhibit SIRT 1 expression [24]. Tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF-
124 α), the main proinflammatory factor, could induce SIRT1 cleavage and reduce SIRT1
125 activity [26]. Oxidative stress induced reduction of SIRT1 through post-translational
126 modifications decrease SIRT1 activity and mark the protein for proteasomal

127 degradation [27]. Accordingly, treatment with H₂O₂ results in the down-regulation of
128 SIRT1 protein expression [28]. On the other hand, activation of the SIRT1 and related
129 signaling pathway attenuates mitochondrial dysfunction and biogenesis [29], and
130 defends against oxidative stress in articular chondrocytes [28].

131 It has been confirmed that SIRT 1 protein expression decreases in severely degenerated
132 human cartilage, leading chondrocytes to hypertrophy and degenerate [30]. In patients
133 with knee OA, expression levels of SIRT 1 are decreased in the articular cartilage (the
134 lateral and medial sides of the tibia plateau including the loading zone and the margin
135 zone) and is negatively associated with OA disease severity [30, 31]. Moreover, SIRT
136 1's downstream gene p53 expression and its acetylation level were dramatically
137 increased in knee OA cartilage and is positively related to OA severity [31]. However,
138 SIRT 1 expression was significantly reduced in human osteoarthritic subchondral
139 osteoblasts compared to normal [32]. In contrast, SIRT 1 activity (cytoplasmic and
140 nuclear) from peripheral blood mononuclear cells did not correlate with OA patients'
141 clinical activity (Lequesne's index) or inflammation (erythrocyte sedimentation rate,
142 C-reactive protein); in fact, it did not differ between patients with OA and healthy
143 controls but instead correlates with the baseline interleukin (IL) -6 [33]. In wild-type
144 mice with experimental knee OA, SIRT 1-positive chondrocytes are distributed from
145 the superficial to the deep zone of the cartilage. Here, levels of SIRT 1 protein first
146 increased but then gradually decreased with aging [34]. Synovial fluid from OA patients
147 may contain proinflammatory cytokines including TNF- α , which could generate a
148 stable and enzymatically inactive 75-kd form of SIRT 1. When human chondrocytes
149 were exposed to OA-derived synovial fluid, the 75-kd SIRT 1 fragment was indeed
150 generated, and levels of 75-kd SIRT 1 was elevated in OA versus normal chondrocytes
151 [35].

152 **Effect of SIRT 1 in OA**

153 **SIRT 1 regulates ECM**

154 SIRT 1 seem to play a predominant regulatory role in OA [36]. Expression of SIRT 1
155 in chondrocytes led to increased chondrocyte survival in either the presence or
156 absence of TNF- α /Actinomycin D [37]. Elevation of SIRT 1 protein levels or activity
157 in human OA chondrocytes led to a dramatic increase in cartilage-specific gene
158 (collagen II and aggrecan) expression; accordingly, 3D human chondrocytes present
159 with both increased cellular SIRT1 enzymatic activity and COL2A1 expression [38,
160 39]. Reduced expression of COL2A1 mRNA and type II collagen protein in human
161 chondrocytes correlates with decreased SIRT 1 activity [39]. Another study confirmed
162 SIRT 1 inhibition increases COL10A1 and ADAMTS5
163 (a disintegrin and metalloproteinase with thrombospondinmotifs) expression while
164 decreasing aggrecan expression [30]. It was discovered recently that glucosamine
165 (GlcN) exhibits chondroprotective action on OA by enhancing the mRNA expression
166 and protein levels of SIRT 1 and its downstream gene COL2A1 in chondrocytes [40].

167 **SIRT 1 promotes MSCs differentiation**

168 SIRT 1 is required for promoting chondrogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem
169 cells (MSCs) [41]. It's well known that sex determining region Y box protein 9 (SOX9)
170 and runt-related transcription factor 2 (RUNX2) are the pivotal transcription factors in
171 adult cartilage development [42]. SIRT 1 supports the chondrogenic development of
172 MSCs at least in part through the inhibition/deacetylation of NF- κ B and activation of
173 SOX9 in vitro [41]. SIRT 1 may regulate the expression of RUNX2 and the production
174 of matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) 13 from chondrocytes to adjust the hypertrophic
175 chondrocyte lineage and degeneration of articular cartilage [43]. SIRT 1 deacetylates
176 PPAR γ and SOX9 to control the vav guanine nucleotide exchange factor 1 (Vav1),
177 regulating MSC cell fate decisions for adipocyte and chondrocyte differentiation [44].
178 SIRT 1 is a major contributor of SOX9 deacetylation; the deacetylated state of SOX9
179 enables its importation to the nucleus and supports its transcriptional activity and
180 transactivation of aggrecan [45]. SIRT 1 is active in the cartilage-specific transcription
181 factor SOX9 and is dependent on NAD. Inhibition of nicotinamide
182 phosphoribosyltransferase (NAMPT) leads to reductions in NAD levels, SIRT activity,
183 and cartilage-specific gene expression. Therefore, SIRT 1, NAMPT, and NAD may
184 provide a positive function in human cartilage by elevating the expression of genes
185 encoding cartilage ECM [38]. SIRT 1 is also a key regulator of chondrocytes' phenotype;
186 IL-1 β induces the dedifferentiation of articular chondrocytes by the up-regulation of
187 SIRT 1 activity enhanced by both NAMPT and extracellular signal-regulated kinases
188 (ERK) signaling [46]. Decreased SIRT 1 in OA might lead chondrocytes to hypertrophy
189 and degenerate [30]. SIRT1 plays an important role in MSCs' differentiation and
190 resistance to H₂O₂-induced oxidative stress during bone marrow-derived MSCs (BM-
191 MSC) osteogenesis [47, 48]. In the SIRT1 RNAi cell model, knocking down the SIRT1
192 gene induced the Wnt signaling pathway, leading to the inhibition and decrease of
193 cartilaginous proliferation and differentiation, but increasing apoptosis in ATDC5 cells
194 [49]. Increased SIRT1 could inhibit adipogenesis and stimulate myogenic
195 differentiation in MSCs through activating Wnt/ β -catenin signaling [50, 51]. Other
196 factors were also involved in the process of SIRT1 regulation of MSC, such as the
197 activation of the adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase (AMPK)-SIRT1
198 signaling pathway as well as beneficial mechanical stretch to induce antioxidant
199 responses, attenuate intracellular ROS, and improve osteogenesis of human BM-MSCs
200 [52]. In mice, Sirt1 promotes MSC proliferation and osteogenic differentiation and
201 inhibits MSC senescence via Bmi1 activation; therefore, treatment with resveratrol
202 could promote bone formation and prevent bone loss [53]. SIRT1 was also directly
203 involved in the regulation of beige adipocyte differentiation. Elevated SIRT1 prevents
204 elderly adipose tissue-derived-MSCs from entering senescence and restores the beige
205 differentiation ability via the p53/p21 pathway [54].

206 **Anti-catabolic and anti-inflammatory effects**

207 Previous studies confirmed that SIRT 1 exhibits anti-catabolic and anti-inflammatory
208 effects in OA. Secreted inflammatory molecules, in particular the two major
209 proinflammatory cytokines IL-1 β and TNF- α , control the degeneration of articular
210 cartilage matrix [55, 56]. SIRT 1 and TNF- α appear to have opposing effects on
211 cartilage gene expression; SIRT 1 expression or activity may be blocked in part by TNF-
212 α [26]. TNF- α mediates the proteolytic cleavage of SIRT 1, producing a stable 75-kd
213 SIRT 1 fragment that is incapable of binding chromatin and chromatin associated
214 coactivators, such as PGC-1 and SOX9 [26]. After exposure of human chondrocytes to
215 TNF- α , 75-kd SIRT 1 was exported to the cytoplasm and colocalized with the
216 mitochondrial membrane, where the 75-kd SIRT 1 plays the role of preventing cell
217 death through its enhanced association with cytochrome on the mitochondrial
218 membrane to block downstream apoptosis by preventing apoptosome assembly and
219 subsequent caspase 3 activation; 75-kd SIRT 1 is capable of promoting cell survival
220 through an enzymatically independent mechanism [35]. Cartilage destruction in OA is
221 thought to be mediated by two main enzyme families: the MMP enzymes are
222 responsible for cartilage collagen breakdown, whereas the enzymes from the ADAMTS
223 family mediate cartilage aggrecan loss [57]. Overexpression of SIRT 1 in human
224 chondrocytes leads to the repression of MMP 3, -8, and -13 and ADAMTS 4 gene
225 expression, and down-regulating SIRT 1 leads to the induction of MMP 13 [58]. In
226 human chondrocytes treated with IL-1 β , SIRT 1 can play a protective role by
227 suppressing IL-1 β -induced expression of cartilage-degrading enzymes such as
228 ADAMTS 5, MMP 1, 2, 9, and 13 partially through the modulation of the NF- κ B (p65)
229 pathway [59]. When chondrocytes are incubated with TNF- α , SIRT 1 also activates,
230 deacetylates, and inactivates NF- κ B p65 to exert an inhibitive effect on the expression
231 of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), and MMPs [60]. In human
232 chondrocytes, fisetin inhibits IL-1 β -induced expression of nitric oxide (NO), PGE2,
233 TNF- α , IL-6, COX-2, inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), MMP 3, MMP 13,
234 ADAMTS 5, and remarkably suppressed the degradation of SOX9, aggrecan and
235 collagen-II; it exerts all these anti-inflammatory effects through activating SIRT 1 [61].
236 Silencing of microRNA-449a shows a protective effect via targeting SIRT 1 to inhibit
237 catabolic gene expression, restoring anabolic gene expression in IL-1 β -induced
238 cartilage destruction [62].

239 **Anti-oxidative stress**

240 SIRT 1 is strongly involved in the process of melatonin's cytoprotective and anti-
241 inflammatory effects in oxidative stress-stimulated chondrocytes. When oxidative
242 stress induces senescence in chondrocytes, SIRT 1 enables chondrocytes to cope with
243 unfavorable growing conditions. The mRNA of SIRT 1 was up-regulated after oxidant
244 insult, but decreased in aging cells [63]. Expression of SIRT 1 could be induced by
245 H₂O₂, and melatonin was confirmed to have the effect of decreasing SIRT 1 in
246 chondrocytes [64]. Inhibiting SIRT 1 reversed the effects of melatonin on H₂O₂-
247 mediated induction of proinflammatory cytokines (NO, PGE2, TNF- α , IL-1 β , and IL-

248 8) and the expression of iNOS and COX-2. Moreover, decreased SIRT 1 reversed the
249 effects of melatonin, blocking the H₂O₂-induced phosphorylation of PI3K/Akt, p38,
250 ERK, C-Jun-N-terminal kinase (JNK), and mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK),
251 as well as the activation of NF-κB [64]. In chondrocytes stimulated by oxidative stress,
252 MiR-9 was identified and confirmed to be a post-transcriptional regulator of SIRT 1;
253 MiR-9 silencing inhibits cell death, induced by H₂O₂ partly through down-regulation
254 of SIRT 1 [65]. In H₂O₂-treated rat chondrocytes, rutin effectively inhibits the activation
255 of inflammatory cytokines and MMP 2/9 by increasing SIRT 1, leading to the down-
256 regulation of NF-κB/ MAPK, COX-2 and iNOS [28].

257 **Anti-apoptosis and participation in autophagy**

258 Autophagy participates in the OA development and regulates changes in OA-like gene
259 expression through modulation of apoptosis and reactive oxygen species (ROS) as a
260 protective process [66]. SIRT 1 is also involved in this process. Hydroxytyrosol
261 stimulates autophagy and offers protection from oxidative stress-induced cell death in
262 a SIRT 1 dependent manner by increasing p62 transcription [67]. SIRT 1 is an anti-
263 apoptotic protein in human chondrocytes on account of its enzymatic activity:
264 expression of SIRT 1 leads to activation of the insulin-like growth factor (IGF) receptor
265 (IGFR) and the downstream kinases phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3K),
266 pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase 1 (PDK1), mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR),
267 and Akt, ultimately resulting in the phosphorylation of mouse double minute 2
268 homolog (MDM2), inhibition of p53, and blocking apoptosis [37]. Furthermore, in
269 human chondrocytes, SIRT 1 regulates apoptosis through the modulation of
270 mitochondria-related apoptotic signals via translocation of Bax and Bcl-2 (SIRT 1
271 inhibition increases the amount of Bax and reduces the amount of Bcl-2). However, the
272 increased NO-induced apoptosis by SIRT 1 inhibition is mediated by the activation of
273 caspases 3 and 9, but is independent of the caspase 8 pathway [24]. Both AMPK and
274 SIRT 1 are strong inducers of autophagy. Meanwhile, homeostasis of mitochondrial
275 mass through mitochondrial is maintained through biogenesis and mitophagy. In human
276 OA chondrocytes, mitochondrial biogenesis is deficient, which is linked to reduced
277 AMPKa activity and decreased expression of SIRT 1. Activation of the AMPK/SIRT-
278 1/PGC-1α pathway reversed the impaired mitochondrial biogenesis capacity in cultured
279 human OA chondrocytes [68]. The SIRT 1/p53 signaling pathway showed direct
280 involvement in the miR-34a regulation, apoptosis, and inhibition of cell proliferation in
281 human chondrocytes [69]. In the process of ionizing radiation (IR) induction of cellular
282 senescence of chondrocytes, the role that IR plays is negative post-translational
283 regulation of SIRT 1 via ROS-dependent p38 kinase activation; up-regulation of SIRT
284 1 distinctly reduces the IR-induced senescence phenotype and vice versa [70].

285 **Other effects**

286 In cartilage homeostasis, SIRT 1 also mediates the key clock gene expression with

287 pathophysiological implications. In human knee OA cartilage, the levels of both NAD⁺
288 and Bmal 1, a circadian rhythm gene, were decreased significantly, resulting in the
289 inhibition of NAMPT activity and SIRT 1 expression. Inhibition of SIRT 1 not only
290 resulted in a reduction of Bmal1 and a moderate increase of period 2 (per2) and Rev-
291 Erb α , but also further exacerbated the survival of cells with the expression of cartilage
292 matrix-degrading enzymes induced by IL-1 β [71].

293 OA affects all joint components, not only the cartilage, but also the bone, synovium,
294 and so on. SIRT 1 also plays an important role in bone homeostasis. SIRT 1 is a genetic
295 determinant of bone mass: the lack of SIRT 1 promotes osteoclastogenesis in
296 osteoclasts in vitro and reduces osteoblast differentiation in osteoblasts through the
297 control of NF- κ B and bone cell differentiation [72]. Decreased SIRT 1 levels were
298 found in human osteoarthritic subchondral osteoblasts [32]. In addition, Calcarea SIRT 1
299 expression in the osteoporotic femoral neck (calcar region) was significantly reduced
300 while sclerostin was markedly increased, showing SIRT 1 and sclerostin expression are
301 inversely correlated [73]. Inhibition of SIRT 1 in osteoblasts leads to increased
302 transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF- β 1) and sclerostin expression that decreases
303 Wnt/ β -catenin activity; conversely, the stimulation of SIRT 1 reduces the expression of
304 TGF- β 1 and sclerostin, as well as increases the mineralization in OA osteoblasts [73].
305 Wnt/ β -catenin signaling is important for normal bone homeostasis and function;
306 osteoblasts and osteoclasts are affected by decreased sclerostin, the inhibitor of the
307 Wnt/ β -catenin signaling and a SIRT 1 target [32]. The expression and production of
308 SIRT 1 were decreased in OA subchondral bone tissue [74]. SIRT 1 may regulate
309 apoptosis and ECM degradation via the Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway in OA
310 chondrocytes [75]. SIRT 1 can regulate the bone marrow adipocyte phenotype, inducing
311 a thermogenic gene program in mouse and human BM-MSCs via sclerostin inhibition
312 [76]. Due to the relationship between SIRT 1 and Wnt/ β -catenin signaling, the disruptor
313 of telomeric silencing 1-like (DOT1L) could directly control Wnt signaling by
314 inhibiting the activity of SIRT1, playing the role of safeguarding the homeostasis in
315 cartilage and protecting against OA [77]. In the process of deletion of the oxygen sensor
316 prolyl hydroxylase (PHD) 2 in osteocytes, the enhanced SIRT1 activates the WNT/ β -
317 catenin signaling and decreases the sclerostin, leading to increased osteoblast number
318 and activity while decreasing osteoclastogenesis and bone resorption. However, the
319 expression and effects of SIRT 1 in osteoarthritic subchondral bone and synovium needs
320 to be further investigated, the related mechanism of SIRT 1 in OA was shown in Figure
321 1.

322 **SIRT 1 in OA animal models**

323 SIRT 1 has shown the ability to regulate the osteogenesis and adipogenesis of MSCs.
324 MSC specific SIRT 1 knock-out (MSCKO) mice confirms that SIRT 1 regulates
325 differentiation of MSCs by deacetylating beta-catenin: MSCs isolated from MSCKO
326 mice show reduced differentiation towards osteoblasts and chondrocytes in vitro [79].
327 In parathyroid hormone-related protein 1-84 [PTHrP(1-84)] knockin mice, Bmi-1 alters

328 the bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells' (BM-MSCs) fate by enhancing
329 osteoblast differentiation and inhibiting adipocyte differentiation, at least in part by
330 stimulating SIRT 1 expression [80].

331 SIRT 1 and its enzymatic activity play a protective role in normal development and
332 homeostasis of cartilage in vivo [81]. In the haploinsufficient SIRT 1 total body
333 knockout (KO) mice, SIRT 1 KO mice exhibit cartilage defects that are consistent with
334 their reduced size. SIRT 1 KO mice cartilage exhibit low levels of type II collagen,
335 aggrecan, and glycosaminoglycan content in their paws; however, they exhibit elevated
336 levels of MMP 13 and protein tyrosine phosphatase (PTP1B) in cartilage compared
337 with WT mice [82]. Nevertheless, in the homozygous SIRT-1^{tm2.1Mcby} (SIRT-1^{y/y})
338 mice of OA models, the cartilage tissue changes are in line with previous reports.
339 Moreover, bone defects (subchondral bone had less trabecular bone volume and thicker
340 trabeculae) and moderate local inflammation of the joint were also demonstrated in
341 SIRT 1^{y/y} mice [81]. In the SIRT 1^{-/-} mice, MMP 13 and lymphoid enhancer-binding
342 factor 1 (LEF1) appear to be elevated in the articular cartilage; activation of SIRT 1
343 plays a positive role in reducing the severity of OA, in part through its ability to repress
344 the expression of MMPs [58]. Adult (9-month-old) heterozygous haploinsufficient
345 SIRT 1^{+/-} mice showed decreased levels of aggrecan and other proteoglycans, but
346 increased OA and levels of apoptosis compared with age-matched wild-type (WT) mice.
347 Levels of full-length SIRT 1 were further decreased in both strains at 9 months. 75 kDa
348 SIRT 1 was found in 9-month-old WT mice; however, it was not detected in age-
349 matched SIRT 1 (+/-) mice [83].

350 **Activation SIRT 1 inhibits the OA progress via resveratrol**

351 Resveratrol, a SIRT 1 activator, can protect chondrocytes against the OA development.
352 Resveratrol increased SIRT 1 protein expression in a dose-dependent manner: at
353 concentrations of 25 microM and/or 50 microM, resveratrol treatment significantly
354 upregulates SIRT 1 gene expression in normal and osteoarthritic chondrocytes [84].
355 This was blocked by the SIRT 1 inhibitor, sirtinol, which inhibits TNF- α -induced
356 inflammatory factor COX-2 and MMPs release, as well as ECM degradation [46],
357 Resveratrol protects the chondrocytes from IL-1 β stimulation in a dose-dependent
358 manner via its activation of SIRT 1 [85]. The inhibition of SIRT 1 enhances NO-induced
359 apoptosis of human chondrocytes, and resveratrol inhibits this NO-induced apoptosis.
360 Resveratrol reduced the amount of Bax and increased the amount of Bcl-2 in the
361 mitochondrial fraction [24]. In rabbit with OA, intra-articular injection of melatonin
362 significantly reduced cartilage degradation, which was reversed by sirtinol [64].

363 In human chondrocytes, overexpression of SIRT1 plays a protective role through the
364 NF-kB pathway, reducing the up-regulation of MMP 1, 2, 9, 13, and ADAMTS 5 genes
365 caused by IL-1b [59]. Moreover, upregulation of SIRT1 or treatment with the SIRT1
366 activator resveratrol could affect NF-kB expression caused by TNF-a in order to exert
367 an anti-inflammatory effect on human chondrocytes [60]. Meanwhile, the elevation of

368 SIRT1 positively affects cartilage genes including collagen 2a, collagen 2b, and
369 aggrecan expression [38]. SIRT 1 upregulation could also suppress OA chondrocyte
370 apoptosis and ECM degradation through increasing Bcl-2 and decreasing Bax, MMP 1,
371 and MMP 13 expression via the inhibition of p38, JNK and ERK phosphorylation [86].

372 In experimental OA mice, treatment with the SIRT1 activator SRT1720 could attenuate
373 OA development though inhibiting synovitis, partially inhibiting the declined COL2A1
374 and aggrecan, and decreasing MMP 13, ADAMTS 5, cleaved caspase 3, PARP p85, and
375 acetylated NF- κ B p65 positive chondrocytes [87]. Silencing miR-449a leads to the
376 upregulation of SIRT 1, promoting cartilage regeneration and preventing progression
377 of OA in rat models [88].

378 In a double-blind, randomized control trial which included 110 people with mild to
379 moderate knee OA in Iraq, the patient-subjects received 15 mg meloxicam and either
380 500 mg resveratrol or placebo per day for 90 days. The results showed that the pain
381 severity and serum levels of biochemical markers were significantly decreased in the
382 resveratrol-treated group compared with the placebo treated group [89]. The study
383 further showed resveratrol significantly improved function and associated symptoms.
384 500 mg/day of resveratrol was safe and well tolerated by the knee OA patients [90]. In
385 France, a protocol for a multicentre randomized double-blind placebo controlled trial
386 to evaluate the knee OA patients' pain after 3 months of taking oral resveratrol was
387 published but the proceedings and the results have yet to be determined [91].
388 Consequently, the therapeutic effects of resveratrol or other SIRT 1 activators in
389 practice requires further investigation and validation in clinical trials.

390 **Conclusions**

391 The greatest risk factor for OA is age. SIRT 1 is decreased with OA disease development
392 in osteoarthritic cartilage. SIRT 1 can regulate ECM expression; promote MSCs
393 differentiation; play an anti-catabolic, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidative stress, and anti-
394 apoptosis role; participate in the autophagic process; and regulate bone homeostasis in
395 OA. Resveratrol activates SIRT 1 to inhibit the OA progress, in the future, activating
396 SIRT 1 via resveratrol with better bioavailability may be an appropriate therapeutic
397 approach for OA.

398

399 **Abbreviations**

400 ADAMTS: a disintegrin and metalloproteinase with thrombospondin motifs; AMPK:
401 adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase; BM-MSCs: bone marrow-derived
402 mesenchymal stem cells; COX-2: cyclooxygenase-2; DOT1L: disruptor of telomeric
403 silencing 1-like; ECM: extracellular matrix; ERK: extracellular signal-regulated
404 kinases; FOXOs: forkhead box transcription factor, class O; GlcN: glucosamine; HSF

405 1: heat shock factor 1; IGF: insulin-like growth factor; IGFR: receptor; IL: interleukin;
406 iNOS: inducible nitric oxide synthase; IR: ionizing radiation; JNK: C-Jun-N-
407 terminal kinase; KO: knock-out; LEF1: lymphoid enhancer-binding factor 1; MAPK:
408 mitogen-activated protein kinase; MDM2: mouse double minute 2 homolog; MMP:
409 matrix metalloproteinase; mTOR: mammalian target of rapamycin; MSCs:
410 mesenchymal stem cells, NAD⁺: nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide; NAMPT:
411 nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase; NF- κ B: nuclear factor-k-gene binding; NO:
412 nitric oxide; OA: osteoarthritis; p53: tumor protein p53; PDK1:
413 pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase 1; per2: period 2; PGC-1: PPAR γ coactivator-1; PGE2:
414 prostaglandin E2; PHD: prolyl hydroxylase; PI3K: kinases phosphoinositide 3-kinases;
415 PPAR γ : peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ ; PTHrP(1-84): parathyroid
416 hormone-related protein 1-84; PTP1B: protein tyrosine phosphatase; ROS: reactive
417 oxygen species; RUNX2: runt-related transcription factor 2; SIR 2: silent information
418 regulator 2; SIRT 1: Sirtuin 1; SIRTs: Sirtuins; TGF- β 1: transforming growth factor- β 1;
419 TNF- α : tumor necrosis factor- α ; SOX9: sex determining region Y box protein 9; Vav1:
420 vav guanine nucleotide exchange factor 1; WT: wild-type.

421 **Consent for publication**

422 Not applicable.

423 **Availability of data and materials**

424 All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article.

425 **Competing interests**

426 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

427

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
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
681 **Figure legends:**

682 Figure 1. The mechanism of SIRT 1 and related pathway in OA.

683

684  means there is a direct effect on the other,

685  means there is an interaction between the both sides,

686  means there is an active effect on the other.

687

