세미나 초록

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발표 주제	Endothelial to Mesenchymal Transition:A novel Therapeutic Target in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
발표 내용	Endothelial cells (ECs) are an important component in maintaining homeostasis of the vascular system. ECs can undergo dramatic phenotypic and functional changes in response to environmental cues, which may lead to endothelial dysfunction throughout the vascular system. ECs lose their original morphological and functional properties due to pathological stimuli and represent the phenotype of mesenchymal cells. This phenomenon is referred to as endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EndMT) as a type of endothelial heterogeneity and is involved in various vascular diseases. Recent evidence suggests that EndMT is closely involved in the pathogenesis of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and appears to play a major pathogenic role in mediating the remodeling of the vasculature. PAH is a fatal disease characterized by the vascular remodeling of the pulmonary arterioles, including formation of plexiform and concentric lesions comprised of proliferative vascular cells. Clinically, PAH leads to increased pulmonary vascular resistance resulting in right ventricular failure. The existing therapies have improved outcome but mortality remains exceedingly high. Given the high rate of mortality and limited modalities of treatment, identifying novel targets of therapy remain of utmost importance. Here, the role of EndMT in pathogenesis of PAH and their therapeutic implications will be discussed.