

## Three-Dimensional Morphological Changes of Human Endothelial Cell with Fluid Flow

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### Introduction

The endothelium formed on the inner surface of the artificial graft bear the hemodynamic stress with changing the alignment of endothelial cells. Previous studies of morphological changes of endothelial cells have been focused on the molecular biology of adhered proteins in cell attachment and movement [1-4]. Micro-pipette aspiration [5, 6], centrifugation of cells [7, 8], and exposure of cells to fluid shear stress [9-14] are used to measure the morphological changes and biochemistry of endothelial cells. According to these studies, endothelial cells are oriented with the flow direction under influence of shear stress and become more elongated when exposed to higher shear stress [15, 16]

The objectives of study is to develop the real-time image processing system to investigate the morphological changes of endothelial cell with shear stress including three-dimensional measurement of morphological changes of endothelial cell.

### Real-Time Image Processing System with Laminar Flow Chamber

Cell shape changes and motion were examined by a CCD camera (LK-636, TOSHIBA, Japan) attached to the microscope and connected to a image grabber (MIPS, medical image processing system, Choong Wae Medical, Seoul), IBM PC, monitor (SuperVision Pro 21", Dae Woo Electronics, Korea) and video recorder (Chromatic Series, Hitachi, Japan) [17].

The flow chamber is mounted on the stage of a inverted microscope (IMT-2, Olympus, Japan). The flow chamber is connected to the flow circuit by two 4 mm I.D. ports. Flow is generated by a roller pump (MasterFlex L/S

Drive with Easy Load™ head, Cole-Pharmer Instrument Co., Chicago, IL) between two reservoirs.

### Three-Dimensional Morphology Analysis

To investigate the mechanotransduction of endothelial cells, live-cell real-time imaging of endothelial cell surfaces is very important to reveal the dynamic nature of these structures when they are subjected to defined flow shear stress [18]. Three-dimensional morphological information, such as cellular height, is critical to study the morphological changes of endothelial cell with shear stress. MIPS (medical image processing system, Choong Wae Medical, Seoul) was modified to study the three-dimensional height information from two-dimensional microscopy image. MFCS (microscope focus control system, Choong Wae Medical) and stepping motor (M062-FD-335, Superior Electronics, Bristol, CT) were connected to MIPS and controlled the fine-adjust nut of the microscope (IMT-2, Olympus, Japan). Twenty sequential images of cellular morphology, taken by turning the fine-adjust nut with stepping motor, were automatically stored in the host PC and the pixel-by-pixel substractions of gray values of sequential images were accomplished in the MIPS. A schematic block diagram of MIPS and MFCS system was shown in Figure 1.

### Results and Discussion

The contours of the target cell at the specific height level were collected and reconstructed to analyze the morphological parameters of cytochalasin D-treated human umbilical vein endothelial cells. Figure 2 shows the sequential images of cells acquired with MIPS and MFCS and Figure 3 shows the edge of endothelial cells from Figure 2. Figure 4 summarize the three-dimensional

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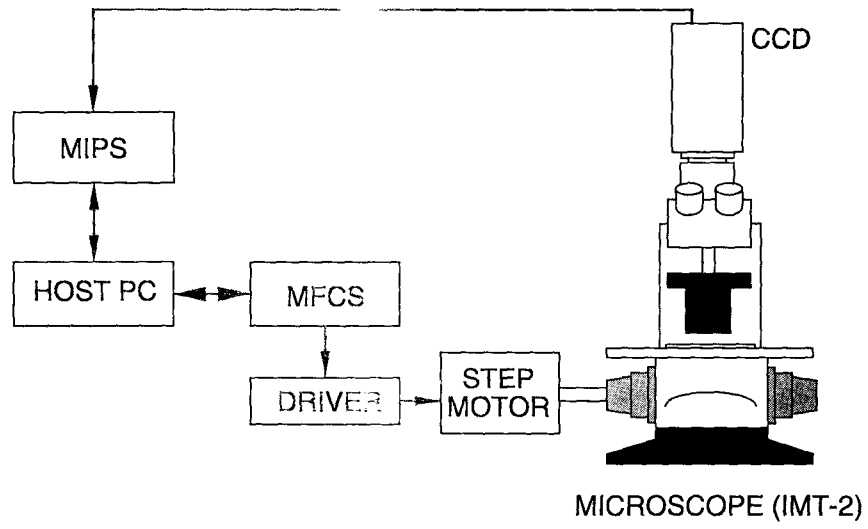


Figure 1. Schematic block diagram of MIPS and MFCS system.

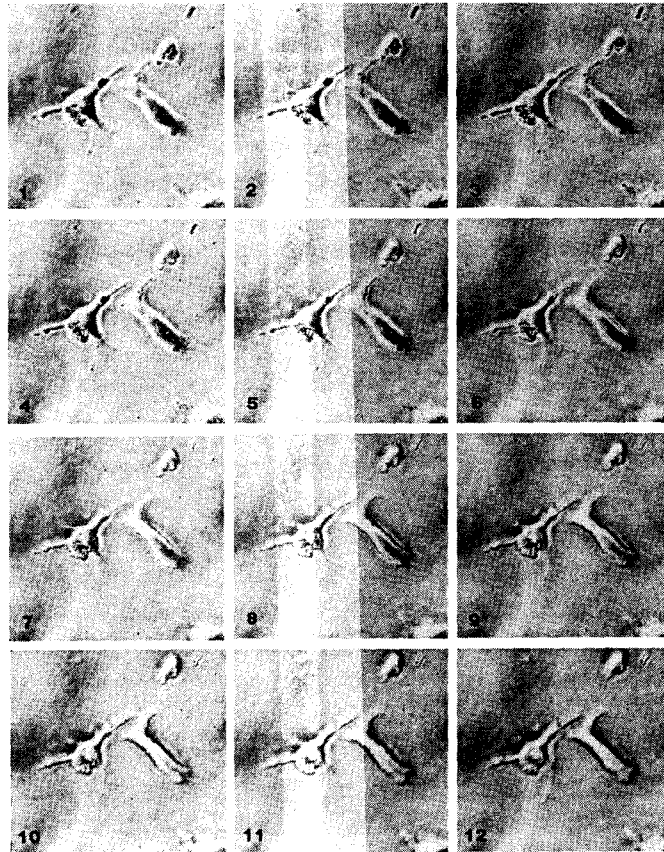


Figure 2. Sequential images of cells acquired with MIPS and MFCS.

morphology of cytochalasin D-treated endothelial cell with shear stress. Cellular height of control culture was shown in Figure 4 (A). The height of cytochalasin D-treated endothelial cell is shown in Figure 4 (B). The height of the cell after 5 minutes exposure of fluid flow and 60 minutes exposure of fluid flow is shown in Figure 4 (C) and 4 (D), respectively. The height of cytochalasin D-treated endothelial cells was increased about 3 times compared to that of the control cell.

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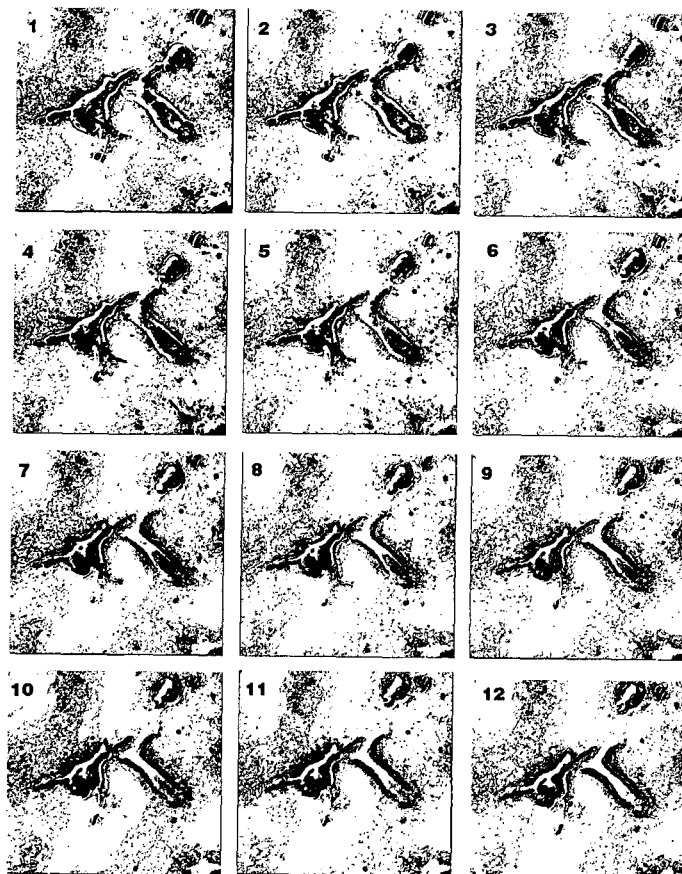


Figure 3. Focused edge of endothelial cells from Figure 2.

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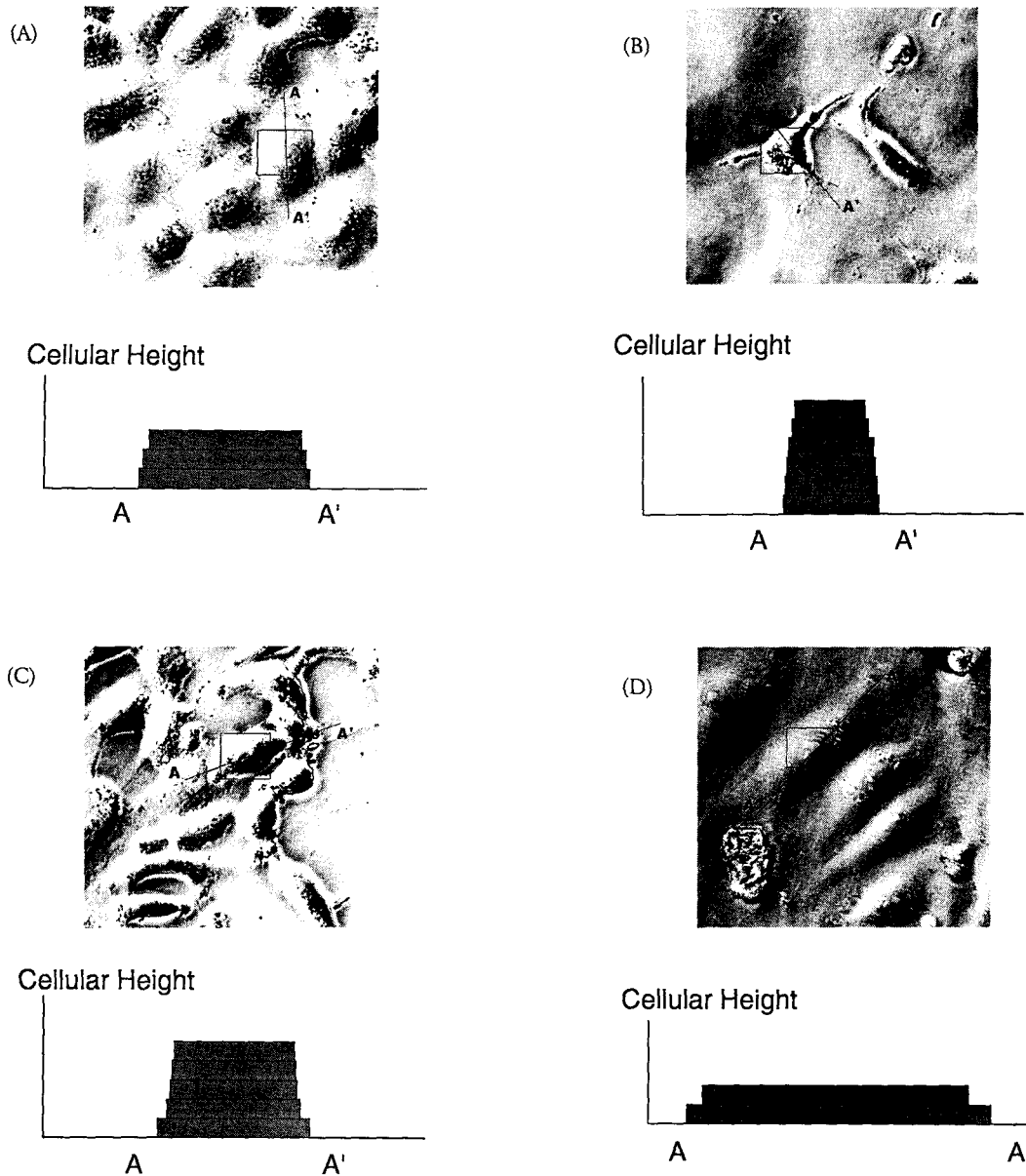


Figure 4 Three-dimensional morphology of cytochalasin D-treated endothelial cell with shear stress. (A) control endothelial cell, (B) 1 hr cytochalasin D treatment, (C) 5 min, and (D) 60 min exposure of shear stress.

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