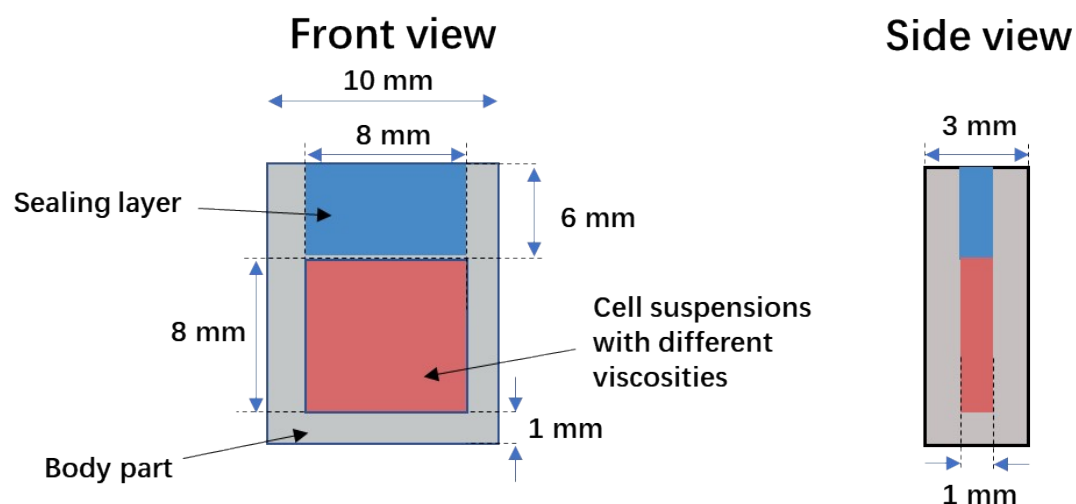


## Supplementary Information

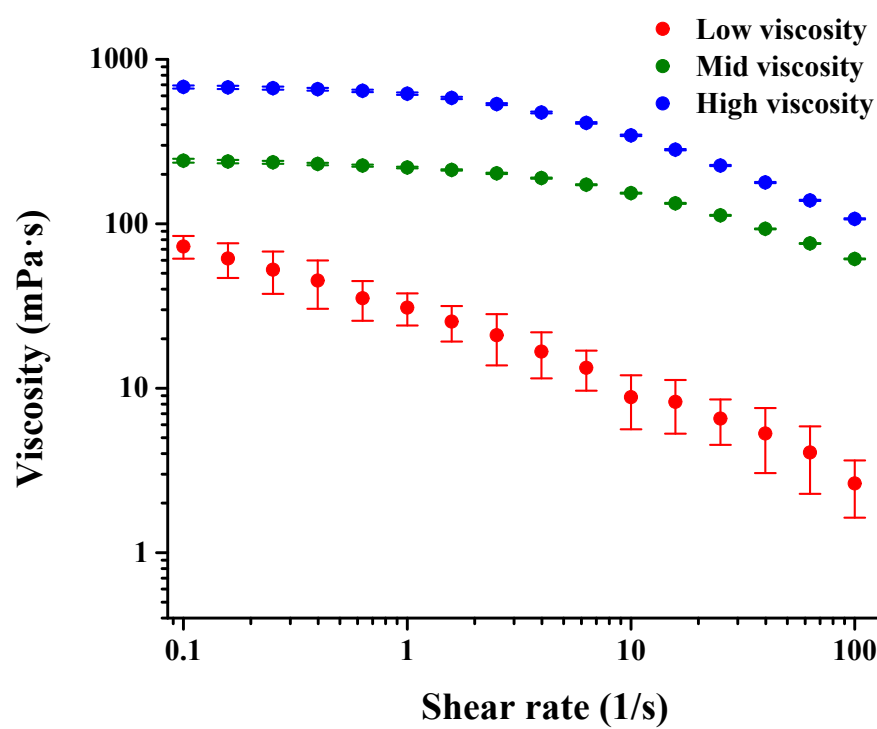
3D culture of bovine articular chondrocytes in viscous medium encapsulated in agarose hydrogels for investigation of viscosity influence on cell functions

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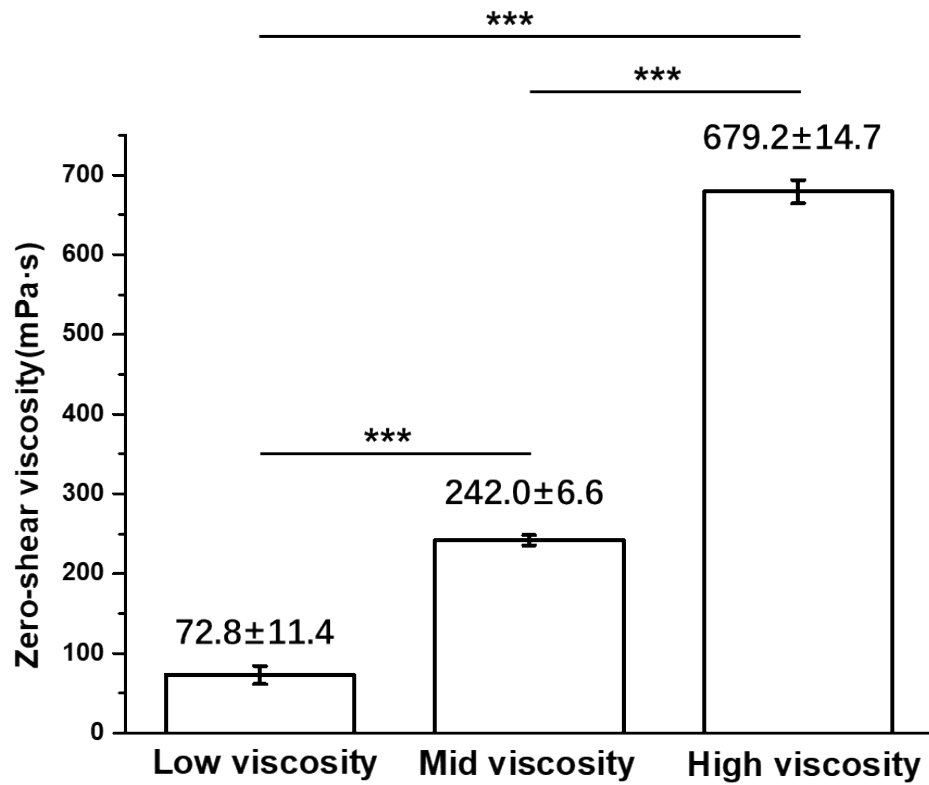
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**Figure S1.** Illustration of hydrogel containers.



**Figure S2.** Viscosity curves of culture media of different viscosity.



**Figure S3.** Zero-shear viscosity of culture media of different viscosity. Data are shown as the mean  $\pm$ SD, N = 3. \*p < 0.05; \*\*p < 0.01 and \*\*\*p < 0.001.

**Figure S4.** Live/dead staining of BACs during 3D culture in the media of different viscosity after 7 d culture. Scale bar: 100  $\mu$ m.

