

INDEX

Resumen	6
Resum	9
Summary.....	12
Glossary	15
1 Introduction	18
1.1 Haematopoiesis and B cell differentiation.....	18
1.2 Multiple myeloma.....	20
1.3 Influence of the bone marrow microenvironment on the maintenance and survival of plasma cells.....	24
1.3.1 Influence of the bone marrow microenvironment on the maintenance and survival of normal plasma cells.....	25
1.3.2 Influence of the bone marrow microenvironment on the maintenance and survival of monoclonal plasma cells.....	26
1.4 Interaction between monoclonal plasma cells and extracellular matrix components and their effect on cell adhesion-mediated drug resistance.....	27
1.5 2D vs. 3D culture systems	30
1.6 3D multiple myeloma culture platforms	32
2 Hypothesis and Objectives	33
3 Materials and Methods	35
3.1 Synthesis and functionalization	35
3.1.1 Polymerization	35
3.1.2 Acrylic microspheres synthesis by emulsion	36
3.1.3 Alginate microspheres synthesis by microfluidic device.....	37
3.1.4 Biomolecule grafting using carbodiimide chemistry	38
3.1.5 Biomolecule coating by physical adsorption	39
3.1.6 Coatings through a layer-by-layer technique	39
3.1.7 Sterilization and disinfection.....	39
3.2 Characterization	40
3.2.1 Physical characterization of the microspheres	40
3.2.2 Glycosaminoglycan quantification.....	41
3.2.3 Protein quantification	41
3.2.4 Spectroscopy detection.....	42

3.3 Cell culture.....	42
3.3.1 Cell culture growth protocol	42
3.3.2 3D culture on acrylate microspheres microgels	42
3.3.3 3D culture on alginate microgels	43
3.3.4 Proliferation and cell cycle assay	45
3.3.5 Viability assay and drug resistance analysis	46
3.4 Statistical analysis.....	46
4 Results and Discussion.....	47
4.1 Synthesis and functionalization of different microgels.....	47
4.1.1 Development and functionalization of microgels based on acrylic microspheres.....	49
4.1.2 Development and functionalization of microgels based on alginate microspheres.....	57
4.1.3 Concluding remarks related to the development and functionalization of different microgels.....	66
4.2 Evaluation of the cellular behaviour in a 3D culture environment based on functionalized microgel with extracellular matrix components.....	67
4.2.1 Influence of volume fraction of acrylic microspheres on cell proliferation...70	
4.2.2 Influence of volume fraction of alginate microspheres on cell proliferation in an environment with the presence of hyaluronic acid and/or collagen type I.....72	
4.2.3 Influence of cell adhesion to fibronectin on cell cycle.....77	
4.2.4 Influence of integrin β_1 on cell adhesion to fibronectin and cell growth.....78	
4.2.5 Cell behaviour in an environment with the presence of heparin or heparan sulphate.....82	
4.2.6 Concluding remarks related to cell behaviour in a 3D culture platform based on microgel.....85	
4.3 Drug resistance induced by the extracellular matrix components presented in the microgel.....87	
8	
4.3.1 Cell adhesion to hyaluronic acid and collagen type I and its effect on drug resistance to dexamethasone and bortezomib	88
4.3.2 Cell adhesion to fibronectin and its effect on drug resistance to dexamethasone and their cell adhesion reversion by the effect of bortezomib	91
4.3.3 Concluding remarks related to drug resistance induced by cell adhesion to extracellular matrix components	93
5 Conclusions	95
6 References	97