

Table S1. Calculated values of diffusional exponent (n) of hydrogels. Exponent is presented as average of three hydrogel results $\pm$ error.

Alginate concentration % (w/v)	Alginate gels	Alginate-gelatin hybrid gels
1.5%	0.449 $\pm$ 0.011	0.949 $\pm$ 0.012
2.0%	0.454 $\pm$ 0.004	0.930 $\pm$ 0.018
2.5%	0.529 $\pm$ 0.024	0.967 $\pm$ 0.011
5.0%	0.596 $\pm$ 0.029	0.969 $\pm$ 0.014

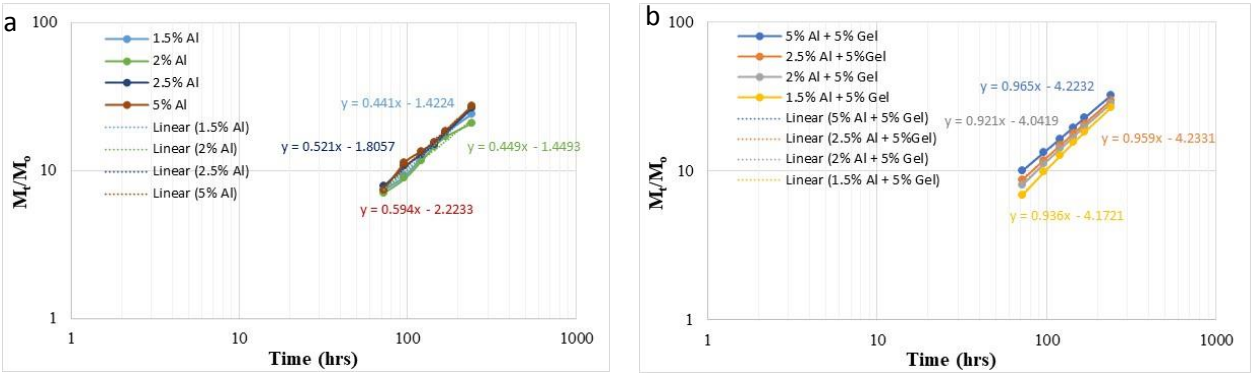


Figure S1. Log-log plot for M_t/M_o for (a) alginate only and (b) alginate with 5.0% Gelatin

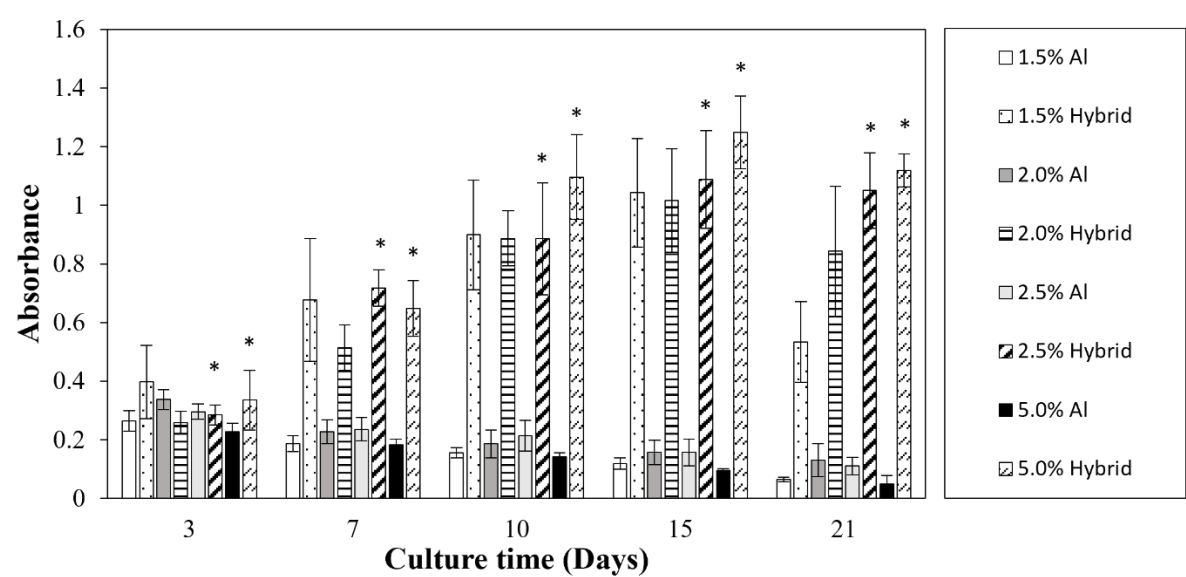


Figure S2. Effect of alginate and alginate-gelatin hybrid gels compositions on metabolic activity of MSCs over a span of 21 days. Error bar S.E.M (N=3). *p-value <0.05 with respect to 2.0% alginate only.