

Figure S1.

IgG purification does not affect the anti-nuclear autoantibody profile.

The presence of anti-nuclear, anti-telomerase I (Sci-70) and anti-centromere antibodies was tested in the serum of patients with SSc and in the corresponding purified IgG. Qualitative results matched perfectly. All IgG samples were positive in the anti-nuclear autoantibody assay. Quantitative results are shown only for patients who had detectable levels of either anti-telomerase I (panel A) or anti-centromere antibodies (B) in the serum. For each patient, results were expressed as arbitrary units divided by the IgG content of the sample (serum or purified IgG).

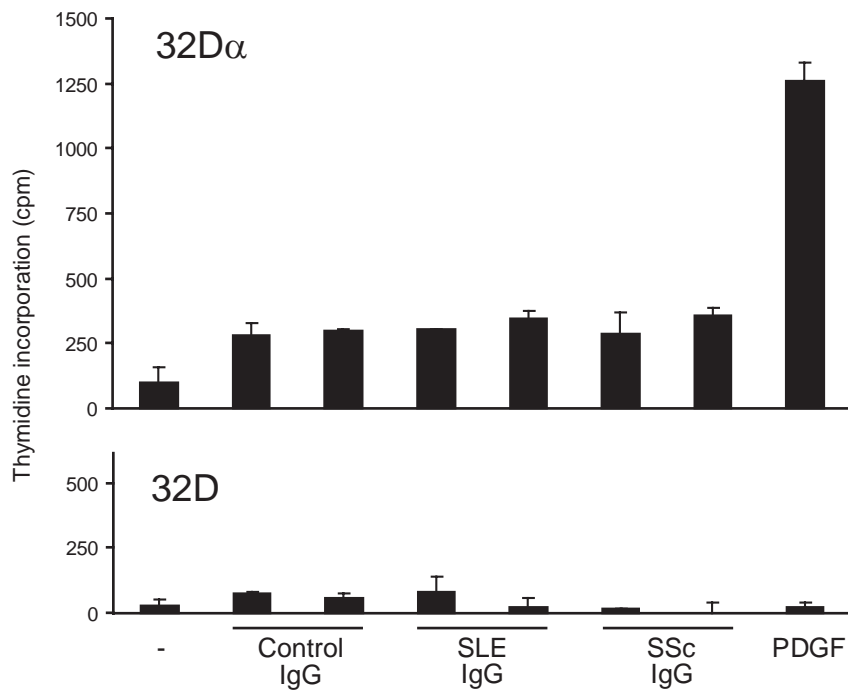


Figure S2.

32D α cell proliferation in response to IgG purified by ammonium sulfate precipitation.

IgG from patients with SLE, SSc or controls were purified from serum by ammonium sulfate precipitation, as described in the “methods” section. 32D and 32D α cells were incubated in the presence of these IgG samples (0.6 mg/ml), control medium (-) or PDGF-BB (50 ng/ml) for 20 h. [3 H]Thymidine was added for four hours. Cells were harvested and radioactivity incorporated into DNA was measured. In the presence of interleukin-3, used as a positive control, 32D and 32D α cells incorporated 1793 ± 105 and 3833 ± 535 cpm, respectively.

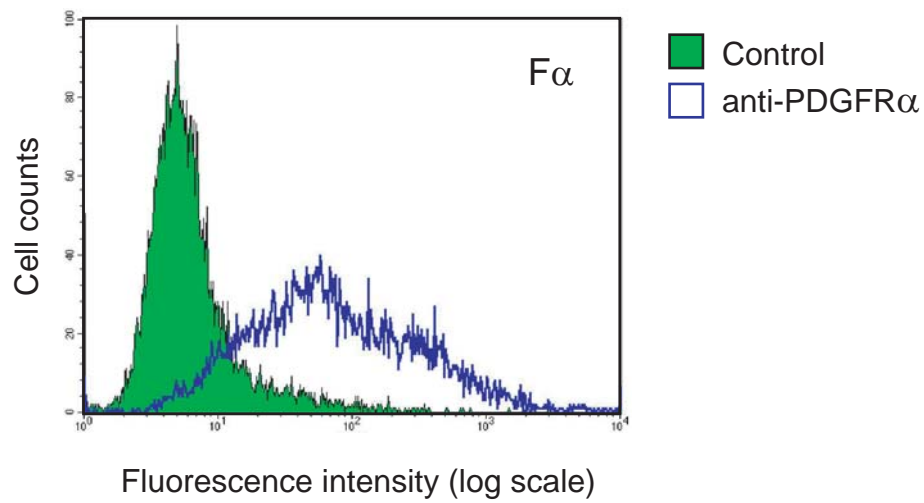


Figure S3.

Transfected PDGF receptors are expressed at the cell surface of $F\alpha$ fibroblasts.

$F\alpha$ cells were incubated with mouse monoclonal antibodies against PDGF receptor α (R&D systems, blue line). The control staining is shown in green. Cells were washed, and stained with anti-mouse IgG coupled to phycoerythrin. Cells were analyzed by flow cytometry. Untransfected cells showed no staining.