

The Endless Miracle of Stem Cell Therapy

Summary: Two women paralyzed by a stroke became the first in England to have stem cells injected into their brain to generate new nerve cells

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Stem cells are little miracles and are able to transform into any cell type in the body, opening the door for all kinds of organ repair. And they're in the news a lot. Just a few days back it was revealed two women paralyzed by a stroke became the first in England to have stem cells injected into their brain to generate new nerve cells.

A 66-year-old woman has become the first in England to undergo a stem cell brain injection to help recover the use of her arm after she suffered a stroke.

Diederik Bulters, a consultant neurosurgeon at Southampton General Hospital, and his team - which consisted of 17 colleagues - carried out the procedure after the woman lost functional movement in her arm when she suffered a stroke a year ago.

The technique was first used in 2010 at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital for an early-stage study, which involved a total of 11 patients, through which it was found that it is safe and it showed promising results.

Every year, around 110,000 people in England suffer a stroke and it is the third largest cause of death behind heart disease and cancer.

"The treatment was tested successfully in a small, early-stage study in Scotland, which showed the technique to be safe, so what we need to do now is quantify how much benefit is derived from it."

He added: "While we have made great strides in this country in treating the onset of a stroke, there is little that can currently be done to improve the lives of so many survivors who are left permanently disabled as a result - but this project could change that."

A second patient, a 72-year-old woman, has now received the injection at Southampton General Hospital and the study is under way at 11 other units in the UK.

Reference:

1. http://www.epsomguardian.co.uk/news/national/14095389.Stroke_patient_has_stem_cell_brain_injection_to_help_arm_movement/
2. <http://www.mirror.co.uk/lifestyle/health/endless-miracle-stem-cell-therapy-6888141>