

**LifeCell – Daily News Update**

**May 21 , 2009**

**Direct News:**

Publication	timesofindia.indiatimes.com
Headline	<a href="#">New stem cell therapy holds hope for heart attack victims</a>
Gist of the article	<p>In a few months, two centres in India will join the multi-centric global stem cell research where heart attack victims undergoing a by-pass surgery would receive stem cell shots in the operation theatre. These injections, scientists hope, would enrich the heart cells and repair damages caused due to cardiac arrest.</p> <p>The cardio-thoracic department of Chennai-based Sri Ramachandra University and Dr Naresh Trehan's centre in New Delhi will start the research after the department of biotechnology gives its nod for a pilot project. The hospitals will tie up with city-based stem cell bank LifeCell and Harvest Technologies which manufactures devices for stem cell harvesting.</p> <p>It's a new school of thought. We will not be working on the part of the heart muscle that has died after a heart attack. Instead, we would work on the remaining part of the heart. The cells that are on the border of the damaged area have a greater potential to be regenerated along with the remaining healthy portions," said Mayur Abhaya, executive director, Lifecell International.</p> <p>WHO predicts that by 2010, 60% of cardiac patients in the world will be Indians. "This therapy uses adult stem cells found in the bone marrow. Here too, we would be using a new technology where stem cells can be derived at a much faster rate. In fact in just 15 minutes, against the usual 8 hours," says Scott Shea, managing director Harvest Technologies.</p> <p>Dr Amit N Patel, director of cardiac stem cell therapies, McGowan Institute of Regenerative Medicine, says that injection of stem cells improve the function of muscles and blood vessels allowing patients to lead a near-normal life. Senior cardio-thoracic surgeon Dr Naresh Trehan agrees. "When drug therapy fails and a heart is not available for transplant, stem cell becomes a viable option. I have seen a success rate of up to 90% in this therapy. In 20 patients injected with stem cells, we have seen new arteries growing from damaged stem cell areas. A scientific paper on this has been accepted by the International Cardiac Surgery," says Dr Trehan.</p>

Publication	<a href="http://mydigitalfc.com">mydigitalfc.com</a>
Headline	<a href="#">LifeCell therapy for critical limb disease</a>
Gist of the article	<p>Buoyed by the positive outcome of a multi-centric study, city-based LifeCell International hopes to introduce in India by December stem-cell based therapy for critical limb ischemia – a severe obstruction in the arteries that many a times leads to amputation of limbs and even death.</p> <p>The stem cell banking service provider also has tied up with US-based Harvest Technologies to bring in Bone Marrow Aspirate Concentrate (BMAC) technology for fast preparation of stem cells from bone marrow.</p> <p>LifeCell has been conducting the study in collaboration with Harvest since last January both in the US and India on the efficacy of BMAC in the treatment of critical limb ischemia (CLI).</p> <p>Similar to the outcome of the trial at the US centre, the 12-week pilot study on 60 people at Sri Ramachandra Medical College in Chennai found that 86.6 per cent of the patients who were recommended for amputation were saved by the therapy. After the pilot study the patients are now being monitored for a period of six months, said Mayur Abhaya, executive director of LifeCell International said.</p> <p>“By December we hope to seek commercial approval for the therapy from Drug Controller General of India. Once we receive the approval, LifeCell will be the first organization to introduce stem-cell based therapy for CLI in India,” he said.</p> <p>LifeCell will also seek reimbursement of the cost incurred on the study from insurance companies.</p>

Publication	<a href="http://indopia.in">indopia.in</a>
Headline	<a href="#">Lifecell ties up with Harvest Technologies</a>
Gist of the article	<p>LifeCell International, stem cell banking service provider, today announced its association with US-based Harvest Technologies to bring in a technology that would help in preparation of stem cell concentrate from bone marrow.</p> <p>Bone Marrow Aspirate Concentrate (BMAC) is a USFDA and CE approved biological technology that accelerates the body’s natural healing capacity, thereby improving surgical outcomes. LifeCell International Managing Director Mayur Abhaya said existing methods to produce stem cell concentrate were time consuming, labour intensive, and require complex logistical considerations. He said BMAC system helps in safe and rapid preparation of cell concentrate from bone marrow. The process takes only about 15 minutes and can be conducted in the point of care setting, he added. Mayur said the system is at present being used clinically in many developed countries like US and Europe for various medical disciplines.</p>

Publication	news.chennaionline.com
Headline	<a href="#">LifeCell tie-up with Harvest Technologies</a>
Gist of the article	<p>LifeCell International, stem cell banking service provider, today announced its association with Harvest Technologies, a leader in developing technologies that accelerate natural healing, to bring-in a next generation technology Bone Marrow Aspirate Concentrate system in India. BMAC is a USFDA and CE approved biological technology that accelerates the body's natural healing capacity, thereby improving surgical outcomes.</p> <p>Talking to reporters, LifeCell International Managing Director Mayur Abhaya said existing methods to produce 'stem cell concentrate' were time consuming, labour intensive, and require complex logistical considerations.</p> <p>He said BMAC system helps in safe and rapid preparation of cell concentrate from bone marrow.' The process takes only about 15 minutes and can be conducted in the point of care setting,' he said.</p> <p>Mayur said the system is currently being used clinically in many developed countries like US and Europe for various medical disciplines. - Agencies</p>

### **Key Industry News:**

Publication	komu.com
Headline	<a href="#">Stem Cell Research Shows Promise</a>
Gist of the article	<p>Doctors say new stem cell research could fight a form of heart disease. Doctors in the Netherlands injected bone marrow and stem cells into the heart of 50 patients, all suffering from a chronic heart condition. Some got a placebo instead of the stem cells. Three months after the procedure, those who got the real treatment had improvements in blood flow and heart function, exercise capacity and overall quality of life.</p> <p><b>Pacemaker Warning</b></p> <p>A Minnesota company is warning doctors about thousands of defective pacemakers that may have played a role in two patient deaths. Minneapolis-based "Med-Tronic" sent a letter warning doctors 37,000 of its pacemakers may have wiring defects that can cause a malfunction. The company says the problem affects its Kappa and Sigma pacemakers, causing them to not respond or run out of battery power. Company officials say they've gotten two reports of patient deaths where the pacemaker may have played a role.</p>

	<p><b>Possible Swine Flu Vaccine</b></p> <p>A drug company is waiting for approval to produce a swine flu vaccine. Swiss drug maker Novartis is asking the World Health Organization and U.S. Centers for Disease Control to begin producing the cure. The company has samples of the virus and is waiting to begin processing the drug.</p>
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Publication	projo.com
Headline	<a href="#">Pilot program may establish cord-blood bank</a>
Gist of the article	<p>The Rhode Island Blood Center and Women &amp; Infants Hospital have begun collecting umbilical-cord blood in a one-year pilot. The goal is to see whether Rhode Island could eventually host New England's first public cord-blood bank.</p> <p>The stem cells in cord blood have been used experimentally as an alternative to bone marrow transplants for certain blood diseases, especially leukemia and lymphoma. People who can't find a bone-marrow match will sometimes try cord blood, which doesn't have to be a perfect match.</p> <p>The Rhode Island collection effort, begun May 11 and announced at a news conference Wednesday, will transform what is usually medical waste into a potentially life-saving treatment. The program is supported with \$70,000 in legislative grants.</p> <p>"Cord blood donation is an incredible, painless way to save someone's life," said Dr. Carolyn Young, the blood center's chief medical officer. "There is no controversy, unlike embryonic stem cells."</p> <p>The donation occurs after the birth and does no harm to mother or child. The cord blood collected at Women &amp; Infants, where 9,000 babies are born each year, will be tested at the Rhode Island Blood Center. If it contains enough stem cells to be useful, it will be shipped to the New Jersey Cord Blood Bank, where it will be processed and frozen. The blood stored there (and at other public cord-blood banks) is used to treat people throughout the world. Blood that doesn't have enough stem cells will be made available to researchers.</p> <p>After a year, the blood center and the hospital will have an idea of how many women are willing to donate and what percentage will prove eligible, said Scott Asadorian, the blood center's chief operating officer. They will then consider whether to extend their arrangement with the New Jersey Cord Blood Bank or look into establishing a cord blood bank here. That would require a laboratory to process the blood and space and freezers to store it.</p>