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Stem Cells

In an ever-expanding world, where humans endure the unforgiving breath of nature’s fury, the human body must resist, adapt and repair itself in response, often failing to do so. These failures are part of nature itself, but make painful, or end, the lives of many due to a lack of available treatment or an advanced form of treatment that can repair the body better than it itself can. This is advanced form of treatment is attributed to Stem Cells: nature’s intelligent and autonomous doctors that can heal and repair injuries that our modern doctors and surgeons cannot.

One important aspect of these stem cells are neural stem cells. According to Thapar, “Neural stem cells offer the prospect of a cure given their potential ability to replenish missing or dysfunctional neurons” (Thapar 2015). This exemplifies the overwhelming importance and power behind the use of stem cells to repair or cure the human body.

With this power, however, comes responsibility. There are many discussions on the ethics of stem cells, one of which is the harvesting of them from animals. One main source of neural stem cells come from “in vivo transplantation” (Thapar 2015) from animals. Harvesting the stem cells in this manner can be a concern due to the possible effects to the animals. I believe, however, that being treated humanely, these animals are not enduring any type of suffering, and are still able to contribute to the good of neural stem cell research progression. Other methods of neural stem cell harvesting are also available, such as from the human gut. This may be more sufficient and considered more ethical by some groups.

After examining neural stem cells, what they are used for, and how they are harvested, my opinion remains that stem cells are a great prospect for the future of the medical field, and human health. I believe that stem cells will carve the path to produce much more medically advanced societies, save, and improve countless lives. Stem cells also offer the opportunity to create a cure or solution to a variety of problems simply by using what is readily available: our own cells. This reduces the need for excessive, expensive medical equipment, and long, complicated procedures or medication, when the use of stem cells is a healthier, faster, and safer alternative.

Research in stem cells are continuously progressing, and what we can do with them is expanding exponentially. I believe that our research in stem cells should not only continue, but should expand as our population and medical needs expand as well.

Sources:

Thapar, N. "Stem Cells." *Neurogastroenterology and Motility*, 27 (2015): 10.