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A New Stem Cell Therapy for Parkinson's Disease Has Been Confirmed Safe and Effective for the First Time

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Tuesday, 19 November
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2024 / Nature Cell Co., Ltd., a leading biotech company based in Korea, announced on November 19th that it has confirmed the success of a new treatment involving the intravenous and spinal cavity administration of autologous adipose stem cells. This treatment was developed in collaboration with Japan Angel Stem Cell (JASC) and R Bio, which utilized stem cell culture media produced and supplied by Nature Cell. The new treatment has shown promising outcomes in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

On the afternoon of November 18th, a press conference was held at the Ginza Clinic in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss the successful results of a year-long treatment for Parkinson's disease. This treatment is notable for being the world's first to utilize a novel stem cell method.

The treatment involves administering 200 million adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells intravenously and 50 million cells into the spinal cavity of Parkinson's patients. These cells were cultured using patented technology from the Biostar Stem Cell Research Institute in Korea, a research partner of Nature Cell. In November 2023, this method gained regulatory approval as a regenerative medical treatment from the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare.

During the press conference, Kunisada Takahiro, chairman of the Neopolis Committee, highlighted the approval process by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. He stated, "The safety and efficacy of the treatment, based on Korea's Biostar Stem Cell Research Institute's methods for nurturing young stem cells and suppressing cancer cell growth, led to the approval by Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare."

Dr. Yoshio Araki, who oversaw the treatment, presented the results from the past year, focusing on the progress and effectiveness of the patients' treatments. Dr. Araki emphasized, "This treatment marks a crucial turning point for regenerative medicine in Japan and serves as a verified example of safety and effectiveness based on scientific research."

In the past year, 136 patients received treatment, leading to a total of 473 stem cell administrations. Patients who underwent the treatment experienced significant improvements in their physical functions, which included alleviating hand tremors, enhancing walking stability, and reducing symptoms of paralysis. Furthermore, notable advancements were observed in mental and psychological well-being, such as restored sleep quality, improved emotional stability, and decreased depressive symptoms. These changes contributed to a marked enhancement in the overall quality of life (QOL) for the patients. The side effects encountered during treatment were primarily mild and temporary. Some patients reported headaches or discomfort at the injection site; however, these conditions generally resolved within three days with the application of pain relief measures and adequate rest.

Three patients shared their successful treatment experiences at the press conference. Brian Walker, a 64-year-old businessman from the United Kingdom, expressed his transformation, stating, "After my diagnosis of Parkinson's disease three years ago, my life was significantly impacted. However, this treatment has led to profound changes. I can walk easily now, and my tremors have ceased. It feels as though I have been reborn." He added, "Friends frequently comment that I resemble my former self from 15 years ago,

and I find myself again contemplating a positive future."

A 70-year-old Korean patient named Eun Seo Kwon shared, "As my disease progressed, hand tremors and balance issues made daily life difficult, and depression made it hard for me to leave the house. However, after starting stem cell therapy, I experienced remarkable recovery, especially after receiving an intracardiac injection. I feel well enough to travel without a wheelchair, and I enjoy playing the drums, saxophone, golf, and even swimming. This transformation has given me a sense of renewal."

Another patient, 69-year-old Kyung Ryeong Kim, said, "After my diagnosis, my symptoms worsened gradually, making walking challenging, as if someone were pulling me down. My body tilted to one side, and I was forced to walk slowly, dragging my shoes. But now I can use chopsticks freely." My granddaughter says, 'She's not slow anymore.'

Stemcell Bio, Inc.

janeshin@stemcellbio.com

(424) 227-9568

Dr. Jeong Chan Ra, director of Biostar Stem Cell Research Institute who played a key role in developing the new Parkinson's disease stem cell treatment technology, commented, "The collaboration between Korea's adult stem cell technology and Japan's medical practices has made it possible to treat Parkinson's disease patients worldwide. The global confirmation of safety and efficacy of simultaneous intravenous and intraspinal administration represents a significant advancement, established through extensive clinical experience over the past year."

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