Embryos aren’t the ones with stem cells. We’ve got a few kinds of stem cells too, each with a different role.

The term “potency” is used to describe the capacity of cells to change, or differentiate, into different cell types when they divide. There are totipotent, pluripotent, multipotent, oligopotent and unipotent cells.

**Fertilized Egg To Adult**

For example, a fertilized egg cell as it divides makes every kind of cell in the human body. That one cell can create an entire person. So a fertilized egg is an example of totipotency.

Embryonic stem cells are almost as flexible. They can differentiate into almost any cell type, like lung, muscle, liver, skin or brain cells. But a single embryonic stem cell can never grow into an entire organism. This is an example of pluripotency.

**Stem Cell Transplants**

Sometimes, leukemia patients will receive treatment that requires them to have a stem cell transplant. When this occurs, they receive a donation of blood stem cells, like those found in bone marrow.

Blood stem cells are multipotent. They can make all the different blood cell types, like red and white blood cells or platelets. But they can’t create other kinds of cells. An example of oligopotency lurks in your lymph nodes. Lymphoid stem cells can produce a few, but not all, kinds of blood cells.

Finally, cells that only produce identical copies of themselves are called unipotent. Like skin cells, when they divide, they only make more skin cells.

胚胎不是干细胞。我们也有几种干细胞，每种干细胞都有不同的作用。

术语“效力”用于描述细胞在分裂时改变或分化成不同细胞类型的能力。有全能，多能，多能，寡能和单能细胞。

### 受精卵到成年人

例如，分裂的受精卵细胞使人体内的各种细胞生长。一个单元格可以创建一个完整的人。因此，受精卵是全能性的一个例子。

胚胎干细胞几乎同样灵活。它们可以分化成几乎任何细胞类型，如肺，肌肉，肝脏，皮肤或脑细胞。但是单个胚胎干细胞永远不会长成整个生物体。这是多能性的一个例子。

### 干细胞移植

有时，白血病患者将接受需要他们进行干细胞移植的治疗。当发生这种情况时，他们会收到血液干细胞的捐赠，就像在骨髓中发现的那样。

血液干细胞是多能的。它们可以制造所有不同的血细胞类型，如红细胞和白细胞或血小板。但他们不能创造其他种类的细胞。淋巴结中潜伏着一种寡头发育的例子。淋巴干细胞可以产生一些但不是全部的血细胞。

最后，只生成相同副本的细胞称为单能。像皮肤细胞一样，当它们分裂时，它们只能产生更多的皮肤细胞。