**First Transplant Completed in Stem Cell Trial for Injured Spinal Cord Therapy**

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Doctors have transplanted the first patient in the phase II Pathway study assessing the efficacy of human neural stem cells for the treatment of cervical spinal cord injuries. The transplant was performed at the University of Miami Hospital at the Miller School of Medicine.

“The first subject transplanted tolerated the procedure and is doing well,” said Allan D. Levi, M.D., Ph.D., the study’s principal investigator. “The Pathway study is designed to measure the potential of these human neural stem cells, HuCNS-SC 9 [a proprietary product of StemCells Inc., Palo Alto, Calif.], as a possible treatment for repairing some aspects of spinal cord injury.”

The Pathway study is the first clinical trial designed to evaluate both the safety and efficacy of transplanting neural stem cells into patients with traumatic injury to the cervical spinal cord. The trial is a randomized, controlled, single-blind study, and efficacy will be measured primarily by assessing motor function according to the International Standards for Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury. The primary efficacy outcome will focus on change in upper extremity strength as measured in the hands, arms, and shoulders.

The trial will follow the participants for 1 year and will enroll approximately 52 subjects.

StemCells completed enrollment in the open-label phase I/II study in thoracic spinal cord injury earlier this year and has reported interim results on all 12 subjects, each having at least 6 months of follow-up post transplantation. Post-transplant gains in sensory function below the level of injury were demonstrated in half of the subjects. Two subjects converted from a complete injury to an incomplete injury, and one subject with an incomplete injury has shown signs of voluntary toe movement. The interim results also continue to confirm the favorable safety profile of the cells and the surgical procedure.

Learn more:  
<http://med.miami.edu/news/miami-project-doctors-transplant-first-participant-in-stemcells-inc.-pathwa>  
<http://www.stemcellsinc.com/>