

Stem cell research could lead to disc regeneration

Question: With all the advanced technology in the world, will there ever be an answer to replacing damaged vertebral discs?

Answer: Many patients with permanent vertebral disc damage dream of solutions to their spinal conditions. There are many people who suffer with severe back pain daily with no relief in sight. The publicity given to stem cell research to correct or repair all types of physical ailments has some of these ailing back pain patients optimistic towards a cure for the first time.

Adult stem cells are being used by an Israeli research team to create a new orthopedic solution to a difficult and common problem: how to heal torn ligaments and tendons.

Stem cells were taken from bone marrow and genetically engineered to become different cells all together.

“With this in mind, we can genetically engineer new skeletal tissue, ligaments, tendons,” stated Dr. Gadi Peled, senior scientist in the lab doing the research. Peled said that in time, the new technology might be used to help people who suffer with low-back pain as well. Invertebrate discs consist largely of tendon tissue that deteriorates over time. The initial tests were done on torn Achilles tendons in rats and complete healing took place in seven weeks. The next step will be to conduct the tests on large animals such as goats and pigs. Clinical trials on bone regeneration are currently being conducted on humans by Hadassah Medical Center together with Teva Pharmaceuticals, using the same adult stem cells. You can read more about this in the April issue of the *Journal of*

Clinical Investigation.

Until there is a replacement miracle, chiropractic is your best natural approach to minimizing pain and maximizing your life.

Quote of the week: *“Research is to see what everybody has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.”* – Albert Szent-Gyorgyi