

What Exactly Is A Stem Cell Transplant?

Controversial and at the heart of much debate, a stem cell transplant is the procedure where the body might not produce enough stem cells within the bone marrow, and other stem cells are transplanted in their place. Sometimes referred to as a bone marrow transplant, a stem cell transplant is often used to treat conditions such as Leukemia, Myelofibrosis, certain forms of cancer, and Aplastic Anemia. Stem cells might be taken from bone marrow or from the blood of an umbilical cord. Since stem cells are early cell forms, they will easily adapt and grow into the type of cells that the body needs. Some of the benefits of a stem cell transplant include helping the body replace damaged stem cells as well as replace and renew cells that might have become cancerous or malignant. When new, healthy stem cells are transplanted they often contain high levels of immunity and can strengthen the body's weakened immune system. Undergoing a stem cell transplant is a highly risky procedure and there are many possible complications that might ensue. It is imperative to discuss all of the benefits, risks, and potential complications with your health care provider and to thoroughly research the procedure being recommended. Some of the most prevalent complications include failure of the stem cell to take, damage to blood vessels or organs, developing cataracts and cancers that are secondary to existing cancers, and a specific disease called Graft versus Host Disease that results from donor stem cells. For those who undergo stem cell transplants, it can take up to one year before your body becomes normalized, especially if donor cells were used. Healing is quicker when the transplant uses a person's own stem cells. For those who find success with their stem cell transplant, and whose bodies do not reject the cells, results are very good and the patient often enjoys a life free of illness and disease.

About the Author

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