Hairs in Healing

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Received: May 27, 2019; **Published:** July 01, 2019

DOI: 10.31080/ASOR.2019.02.0071

Stem Cells have huge healing potential, as these can be differentiated, dedifferentiated or transdifferentiated into different cell lineages. This has led to a vast array of research focused on harnessing the clinical potential of stem cells. This subject needs a balanced dealing between the clinicians and researchers to harness its complete potential.

One of the challenging issues in stem cell based therapy is the source of stem cells. Though, by now it has been established that most of the organs of our body have niche of stem cells, we cannot utilize them in clinical settings. One of the major hurdles is that the procedure of harvesting stem cells could be very much invasive, thereby limiting its use.

Though we have now ventured on cord blood stem cells and Wharton's jelly, finding a niche which is very much autologous and easy to harvest is always exciting. Hair is one such mini-organ, which is probably the least invasive source of stem cells. Though hair follicular stem cells have been tried in a restrictive manner mostly in the degenerative diseases of skin, it has lot of clinical potential, as it also harbors mesenchymal stem cells apart from melanocyte and keratinocyte stem cells. Mesenchymal stem cells are mostly hypoinmunogenic. Being hypoinmunogenic is a fantastic property when we are talking about taking the stem cells into clinical settings. Use of mesenchymal stem cells in allogenic setting is possible because of their hypoinmunogenic behavior. This opens up a vast array of potential applications in the different area of degenerative diseases, which may encompass application of these

cells in most of the degenerative diseases in the coming times, be it skin, heart or bone to name a few.

If it happens it will revolutionize the field. We will see hairs from a different perspective, not only as a mini-organ meant for cosmetic purpose but with much more respect that it has got healing capacity.

Volume 2 Issue 8 August 2019

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