

Could adult stem cell therapy revolutionize medicine?

[Rather than embryonic stem cells, t]he more exciting development...is the discovery that our own adult stem cells have a lot more therapeutic potential than we had ever guessed.

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[T]o almost everyone's surprise, the FDA has stayed on the sidelines, allowing stem cell clinics to grow into a kind of parallel universe operating outside the traditional institutions that have controlled biomedical progress....

Whether this is a good thing depends on where you sit. Academics are mostly aghast....

"There's a long history of individuals entering the [medical] marketplace and offering some cure-all panacea," says...bioethicist Leigh Turner....

Stem cell clinicians will admit they don't have the broad, controlled studies to prove injected stem cells are safe and effective...[But w]hat clinicians do have is what they've seen with their own eyes. "We literally have patients who have come out of wheelchairs and are walking again," [Kristin] Comella says.

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Despite these miraculous-sounding results, [Gary] Steinberg still believes that stem cell treatments should remain the province of academic research until we better understand how, or whether, to use them.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Does Stem Cell Therapy Actually Work?](#)