

Stem Cell Research
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Stem cells are cells capable of dividing and renewing themselves. Stem cells can also become cells with functions such as the beating cells of the heart. There are two different kinds of stem cells: embryonic stem cells and adult stem cells. Embryonic stem cells are cells from the embryo that can become a wide range of specialized cells. Adult stem cells are undifferentiated (doesn't have to be changed) cells that reproduce daily that yield to produce specialized cell types.

Stem cells could possibly be used to treat many different diseases, injuries and illnesses. Diseases such as Heart disease, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, leukemia, multiple sclerosis, diabetes. Physical features can also be helped such as baldness, missing teeth, blindness and even spinal cord injuries.

Research is opposed by many pro-lifers, mainly Roman Catholics and conservative Protestants (the very religious people). The position by pro-lifers is that the embryos from which the stem cells are taken from are humans.

Pro-lifers believe that the embryos have a soul. Since the embryos are killed when the stem cells are removed, pro-lifers believe this is murder.

Much of the debate over stem cells involves whether to allow scientists to take stem cells from the additional frozen embryos left over in fertility clinics. Taking the stem cells kills the embryos. But a more important topic of concern is whether to allow funding of projects for stem cells that were removed from embryos in the past.

Sources:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stem_cell
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3. <http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/biology/b103/f02/web2/emyers.html>
4. http://www.androloji.info/cocuk_olmaması.php

