

A Quick Checklist for Those Contemplating Doing Stem Cell Therapy Abroad

By

[Choctaw Doc](#)

1. If representatives of a stem cell clinic or such tells you people with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) or multiple sclerosis (MS) or any other devastating disease are hopping out of wheelchairs or leaping out of their beds and cannot provide credible proof of this, you'd be wise to move on. *Quickly!*

As I have often told people down through the years --- tongue-in-check: "If you want a miracle, go see a faith healer or visit Lourdes. You have little chance of experiencing a genuine miracle in connection with these**, but it will probably wind up costing you far less than some bogus or 'low mileage' stem cell treatment."

*** Albeit admittedly in some instances spontaneous remission might be effected by brain-immune system interactions mediated by belief.*

If you want to delve deeper into this, give my article [Foreign Stem Cell Treatments: How to Avoid Being Scammed - by Dr. A.G.Payne](#) a "look, see."

In this vein: The evidence I have garnered from patients who went to various foreign private stem cell medicine programs from 2003-present suggests that mild-to-moderate improvements in function occur in a certain percentage of people with non-progressive neurologic diseases and conditions and select other medical challenges (There are exceptions.) From what I have been able to ascertain children typically experience the most salutary responses to various forms of adult (non-embryonic) stem cell treatment. Adults with chronic conditions such as stroke and advanced MS or ALS typically experience very mild short-lived improvements, which give way to disease progression. There are some seemingly promising spins on adult stem cell therapy being used at select clinics that could change this picture in the near future.

2. Expect to pay more for your stem cell treatment if there is a broker, marketer or other middleman involved in your processing with respect to a given adult stem cell therapy program. These people cost clinics and such money, something they surely factor into the costs they levy on patients.

3. Do not give credence to "pitches" from marketers, sales rep types or brokers, especially those who lack the scientific background to assess and faithfully report on the results seen in the program they represent. There are plenty of slick "three piece suit" types I have run across in various stem cell programs who are more adept at spinning propaganda than providing genuine,

balanced information on their clinic or firm's offerings. Instead, I suggest looking for programs that quickly bring you into direct contact with program professionals, especially those working in the medical or research end-of-things. This will not protect you from misinformation or professional bias, but if you are armed with the right questions you can at least get responses direct from "the horse's mouth" as opposed to having them filtered through a middleman who is basically a professional spin doctor.

These articles might prove helpful in terms of equipping you with information and those critical thinking tools you will need to spot BS, smoke screens and such:

[Foreign Stem Cell Treatments: How to Avoid Being Scammed - by Dr. A.G.Payne For Those Considering Doing Stem Cell Therapy Abroad](#)

4. Be advised: Most adult stem cell therapies appear to work via the effects of growth factors produced by the stem cells themselves. Contrary to what is implied on some private stem cell treatment center web sites it is exceedingly unlikely that, say, an umbilical cord stem cells or bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell differentiates into a fully functional somatic cell like a liver, nerve or heart cell. Many do (for instance) become "neuronal-like cells" if prodded in the lab before infusion, but so far as I can tell few if any private stem cell operations actually do this. There are some newer lab methods for priming or programming stem cells to respond to signals in target tissues by becoming cell types that conceivably facilitate some degree of healing or repair or such, but so far as I can ascertain the percentage of stem cells that can be primed or programmed using conventional laboratory methods such as [eletrophoresis](#) and such is very low. A few very new and innovative approaches to increasing the percentage primed or programmed have been introduced recently, such as [vortex assisted electrophoretic delivery of pDNA and such](#).

5. Don't believe anyone who tells you a particular stem cell treatment is 100% risk free. Also, be aware of the fact that some clinics simply mess up when it comes to administering cells free of infectious agents or such. These links will whisk you to articles and such that illustrate various things that have gone wrong with respect to specific programs and treatments:

[Cellular Transplants in China: Observational Study from the Largest Human Experiment in Chronic Spinal Cord Injury](#)

[Medical Tourism Ethics: China Offers Unproven Medical Treatments](#)

[Baby death scandal at stem cell clinic which treats hundreds of British patients a year \(Germany\)](#)

['Stem Cell' Therapy, Delivered in a Bag, Left Him in Agony, SoCal Man Says](#)

[Doctor who treated MS victims with cow stem cells is banned](#)

Mind you, standard medicine including hospital care here in the USA is replete with its own failures and horror stories. However, risk factors are typically spelled out in the consent forms

patients read and sign. And no legitimate US-based doctor, clinic, hospital or such I have come across ever referred to any procedure or drug or such as 100 % risk free (Which again, is the main point and caveat of this particular entry.)

Praemonitus praemunitus (To be forewarned is to be forearmed)

Disclosure

I am not a stem cell expert or biologist, but rather a theoretician and writer. In short, I spin hypotheses and create inventions geared to improve human health or otherwise benefit folks. But with this said I have been involved in stem cell therapy as an observer, a gatherer of patient responses, and a communicator of what I've learned along the way.

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