

# ABC's of Stem Cell Research

**A**dult stem cell research **does not kill embryos!** It utilizes the stem cells in our own bodies, and stem cells that can be obtained from the placenta and umbilical cord after birth. One of the reasons this is more effective is because our immune system is less likely to reject the cells from our own body. **Umbilical cord stem cells** have also proven to be effective in treating various diseases.

**B**uilding blocks of life. **This is what stem cells are.** When you were first conceived, your body was entirely made up of stem cells. Stem cells can become any type of cells, like brain cells, heart cells, muscle cells, and skin cells. Did you ever wonder how your body grew from seemingly nothing? The answer is in the miracle of stem cells.

**C**hinese man dies after **embryonic** stem cells injected into his brain **produced a tumor of hair, skin, bone and finally death.** The problem is that embryonic stem cells are still **too powerful for us to always control.** This sometimes leads to devastating **and even fatal results.** This may account for the lack of major pharmaceutical industry involvement in stem cell research. (SCR)

**D**eath to an unborn human person occurs **every time embryonic** stem cell research (ESCR) is performed. Yes, this human being is much smaller and less developed than you and I, but **does size or level of development have anything to do with our value as human persons,** or is that value inherent in who we are, even when we were only 5 days old?

**E**mbryonic stem cell research is the other type of SCR, and **the only type that is opposed by pro-lifers.** ESCR kills a **human being every time.** A living, human embryo is grown until it's 5-14 days old, when a scientist **cuts the human being down the middle** and extracts it's stem cells, **killing it.** The three sources for embryonic stem cells are **aborted fetal tissue, human embryos** cloned for the sole purpose of being killed for it's stem cells, and **leftovers from in vitro fertilization.**

**F**rozen embryos. The most common argument for ESCR are the "unwanted embryos" to be discarded. Critics argue, "Why not use them for research?" Adoption groups like Snowflakes and Bethany have a program that allows for adoption of these frozen embryos. There are 400,000 frozen embryos today. Unfortunately, half of them will die in the thawing process, leaving **200,000 embryos.** There are as many as **5,000,000 couples seeking adoption** now or in the near future! This leads to the ultimate conclusion: **There are no unwanted embryos!**

**Gerard Magill,** the Executive Director for the Center for Health Care Ethics, said this: "Of course, it is honorable for science to enhance the human condition...**However, ethics must ask science to consider the means used to accomplish its end of benefiting humanity** - ethics forces us to question whether we ought to pursue the benefits and therapies of stem cell research which may save human lives by **means which destroy human embryos."**

**Harvard Medical School researchers** are so impressed with **adult** stem cell research that they say adult stem cells may **eliminate the need for embryonic ones.**

**I**nternational Communications Research polled Americans with the following question: "Do you support your tax dollars being used for medical research that would kill early human embryos?" Their results were noteworthy: **70% oppose embryonic stem cell research when they understand what it really is.**

**Johannes Rau, the president of Germany,** who is also a Social Democrat, is **strongly against stem cell research.** He argues against human cloning and SCR, while the bioengineers on his staff beg him to allow them to do what the scientists in other countries are doing. To their frustration, any type of experimentation on human embryos has been banned in Germany since 1990. The German president has done this because, unlike some others in his country, Johannes Rau **remembers the history of Germany.** He said, "Eugenics, euthanasia and selection are labels that are linked to **bad memories in Germany. Where human dignity is affected, economic arguments do not count."**

**K**illing babies is a **billion dollar industry,** from stem cell research, to abortions, to fetal tissue and organ harvesting! If you think fetal tissue research from aborted babies is a pro-life myth, please contact Josh Brahm at Georgia Right to Life for documented proof!

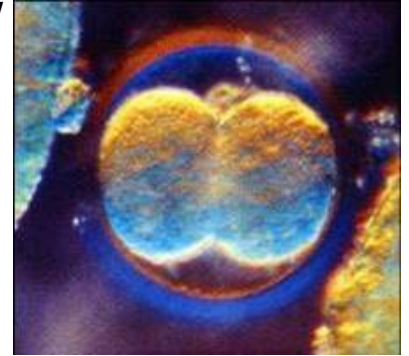
**L**eukemia is just one of the **cures** resulting from **adult** stem cell research. Other conditions cured include **spinal cord injuries, blindness, liver damage, heart injury, autoimmune disorders, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and arthritis.**



**Myth:** "President Bush created new restrictions to federal funding of ESCR." **Fact:** President Bush was the first President to allow federal funds for embryonic stem cell research, but **only** if the research utilized stem cell lines that had already been created. He wouldn't allow federal tax dollars to go to killing more embryos. However, private funds can still go toward ESCR.

**National Institutes of Health** reports that there are more than **13 places in your body where adult stem cells can be obtained**. These include bone marrow, brain, blood vessels, cornea, dental pulp, gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, retina, skeletal muscle, skin, spinal cord and even fat tissue obtained through liposuction. Now there's a source that is plentiful in America!

**Opposing groups** that support embryonic stem cell research argue that "We can't know when life begins. That's a religious issue." Unfortunately for them, **the facts of science don't back up their statements**. However, the **top four secular embryology textbooks** used in medical schools all state the same thing: "Life begins the moment sperm and egg come together, in a process called fertilization." Even the pro-choice movement knows better! **Planned Parenthood's former president** Dr. Alan Guttmacher was perplexed that anyone, much less a medical doctor, would not know this. He said, "*This all seems so simple and evident that it is difficult to picture a time when it wasn't part of the common knowledge.*" Scientific facts make it abundantly clear: **life begins at fertilization**.



**Private investments** for **embryonic** stem cell research **is dropping**. That's because embryonic stem cell research is the **worst investment ever made**.

**Question:** Why would anyone support ESCR after learning that it is **NOT fiscally responsible, NOT practically beneficial, and NOT morally justifiable?** The answer probably lies in the **money**. It would be much more profitable to be able to take cells from an ESCR line at huge costs, than to go through the process of obtaining adult stem cells from patients for their own use only.

**Research** suggests that **embryonic** stem cells may not be as useful as had been previously thought. The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions recently observed that embryonic stem cells, rather than dividing indefinitely and thus providing unlimited material for research, tend to mutate to resemble cancer cells. That's just what the human race needs: **more cancer**.

**Six billion dollars**. This is how much money California taxpayers are spending on embryonic stem cell research thanks to Proposition 71. That's **six billion dollars on research that has yet to cure one disease**.



**Thou shalt not kill.**

~ God

**Umbilical cords** and placentas are packed with stem cells that can be collected after birth and used to treat diseases. Stem cells from cord blood has been used to treat stroke victims, breast cancer, sickle cell disease, leukemia, and 56 others. Unfortunately, Georgia is the only state that educates pregnant mom's that they can donate the used umbilical cord and placenta after birth. According to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: "Every five minutes someone in the United States discovers they have cancer of the blood. **In the same five minutes, 38 babies are born who could save their lives.**"

**Vote** for those who **oppose killing embryos** to use their body parts for medical research!

**Wall Street Journal Europe** provided additional confirmation that **adult** stem cell research is **far more successful** than **embryonic** stem cell experimentation.

**Xtra information** about stem cell research is available at Georgia Right to Life. Check out our website at [www.grtl.org](http://www.grtl.org). (I know that's a corny use of the letter x, but that's all I could come up with!)

**You can help!** Encourage federal and state legislators to put a ban on **embryonic** stem cell research.

**Zero**. That's the number of diseases that have been cured by **embryonic** stem cell research. **Adult** stem cell research has more than 67 cures under its belt. **Do you see a discrepancy here...?**

