Cell based applications are the future of biologic augmentation in orthopaedic surgery

A voice in dissent

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The Holy Grail Or A Passing Fad?

- Not an ethical debate
- Does the data live up to the hype?
- Burden of proof other biologic alternatives
- Bench to bedside or bench to vivarium?
- Stringency of (potential) Level I evidence





Question #1: What are the indications?

• Biologic enhancement should be indication specific

• Undetermined injury patterns – preclinical work simplifies the clinical condition

• Art of orthopaedics is older than the science

Question #2: What is the availability?

• Isolation, characterization and expansion – off the shelf?

• "Ideal" implantation conditions – clinical relevance?

• Patient characteristics – hostile environment

Question #3: What is the toxicity?

• Allogenic stem cells – immunogenic reactions?

• Genetically engineered "factory" cells – viral vectors

• Uncontrolled expression in a receptive host

• Lessons learned from rhBMP-2 FDA IDE trials

Question #4: What is the quality?

• Criteria to assess that repaired tissue is a direct result of cellular applications

• Long term stability of the repaired construct?

• Phylogenetically advanced animal models have a different healing response

Question #5: What is the dose and carrier?

- Will dose and carrier change for each indication?
- Method of delivery indeterminate
- Will the construct meet the biomechanical challenges?
- Off the shelf?





- Anatomic red
- Stable interna
- Preservation of
- Early mobilization

Hedtronic 🛞







• Biologic enhancers that have met burden of proof





Thank You