



Stem cell science is at the frontier of medical research. There is great hope that stem cells could bring safe and life-transforming therapies to patients suffering with currently incurable diseases.

The National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (the NSCFA) provides information as well as updates on medical research into new stem cell treatments. If you are considering stem cell treatment, keen to find out more about clinical trials, or you are just interested in stem cells, the NSCFA website is a great resource to understand stem cells, as well as explore the risks, benefits, and latest developments in stem cell science.

The website provides fact sheets and resources useful for students and teachers or anyone wanting to understand stem cells in greater depth. The website also has links to stem cell organizations here and around the world.

www.stemcellfoundation.net.au

# **Other Trusted Resources**

Learn about stem cells with the International Society for Stem Cell Research, and their website 'Closer Look at Stem Cells'

## www.closerlookatstemcells.org

To learn about Australian Clinical Trials, go to this website.

www.stemcellsaustralia.edu.au/ About-Stem-Cells/Stem-Cell-Clinical-Trials.aspx and

### www.australianclinicaltrials.gov.au

To know more about stem cell treatment and bone marrow transplants, or find out for which diseases and conditions scientists are looking to develop stem cell treatments, visit the Euro Stem Cell Agency.

www.eurostemcell.org/faq/whatdiseases-and-conditions-can-betreated-stem-cells If you are considering stem cell treatment, the 'Patient' Information Handbook,' available on our website, is a trusted resource that can assist you to navigate your way through the world of stem cells, and to find out what treatments are proven, experimental, or currently in clinical trials. All this information, including the handbook, research stories, and much more is available on the NSCFA website.

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We live in an exciting time for stem cell science where there is much potential in the uncharted territory that lies ahead. However rigorous testing in clinical trials is needed to prove stem cell treatments are safe and effective before they

become accepted treatment.
You may have read about
leading sports figures benefiting
from stem cell treatments for
damaged joints, or reports of
patients traveling overseas
for stem cell treatment for
neurologic conditions such as
Parkinson's disease, or autoimmune disorders such as
multiple sclerosis. Besides this,
stem cells are advertised as
the "unique ingredient" in face
creams, weight-loss products,
and anti-aging treatments.

Many advertised treatments are offered unethically, are unproven without scientific evidence for their claims and no clinical trial data to support their safety or efficacy.

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As with any treatment, it is important you get all the facts and discuss your options with your doctor before you move forward.

At a glance, here are some key signs that a stem cell treatment may be unproven:

- The treatment is not part of a registered Clinical Trial.
- A 'one size fits all' approach is offered, where the same type of treatment or procedure is said to be suitable for a vast range of patients, diseases, and conditions.
- When patient testimonials are the main focus, without independent verification or published scientific papers. A testimonial from a patient is not scientific proof.
- The stem cell treatment is advertised directly on the internet, TV, radio, newspapers, or in any form of advertising, and is available without a referral from your medical specialist.
- It is claimed there are no risks involved in the treatment.
- It is not usual to have to pay for participation in a Clinical Trial of a new treatment.

www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/ stem-cell-treatment-information National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia

www.stemcellfoundation.net.au

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