

Alabama student optimistic about post-crash stem cell treatment

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- June 07, 2011

Those behind the use of embryonic stem cell treatment call the option a "hopeful experiment." It's not being widely used yet; in fact, only one Alabama patient has gone through the controversial treatment.

Last year, a University of Alabama student and athlete was severely injured in a [car accident](#). The September crash injured him so seriously that medical professionals told the crash victim that he would never walk again. The 20-year-old athlete was paralyzed.

His hope to walk again, however, wasn't lost. Soon after the car wreck, doctors told him that he was a good candidate for embryonic stem cell treatment to treat his severe spinal cord injury. Six months ago, doctors went into the patient's wound with a needle and injected millions of stem cells. The ultimate goal of the treatment is for new nerve cells to develop and enable him to walk again. According to reports, the same treatment has succeeded in curing small animals' paralysis.

The spinal cord victim in this case, who is also known as "test case No. 1," claims that he is optimistic about the treatment. He claims that he can sense weight and other sensations on his legs and hasn't given up hope that he will have full use of his legs and even be able to run in the future.

Even if this treatment does work in the patient's case, embryonic stem cell research and treatments are highly controversial among the country. Some critics have religious reasons why they believe stem cells should be left alone. Those who support the science see it as, as Dr. Donald Leslie puts it, a way to "cure paralysis" and "stop [spinal cord injury](#)."

If there is any update in this groundbreaking case, we will post an update.

Source

ABC News: "[Spinal-Cord Injury Victim First to Undergo Embryonic Stem-Cell Therapy](#),"
2 Jun. 2011