

Newsletter

Stem Cell Heart Treatment Commences at the XCell-Center's Düsseldorf Clinic

We are proud to announce that the XCell-Center's Düsseldorf clinic is now treating heart disease patients.

Patients suffering from various types of heart disease, who have a diminished left ventricular function, including ischemic or non-ischemic cardiomyopathy, may qualify for this life-changing treatment. This new treatment presents a viable alternative for heart patients who have exhausted standard treatment options or are opposed to undergoing invasive treatments like coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG).

Stem cell-based heart therapy differs from standard methods because it is a drug-free alternative focused on repairing heart muscle and increasing blood flow within the heart muscle itself.

The treatment process takes place in three steps: Bone marrow collection, Laboratory Processing, and Stem Cell Implantation.

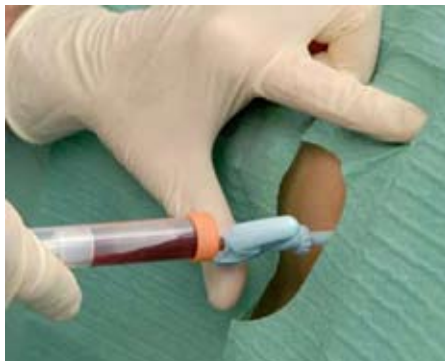
Bone Marrow Collection

On the first day, bone marrow is collected from the patient's iliac crest (hip bone) using thin-needle mini-puncture under local anesthesia. Although some pain is felt when the

needle is inserted, most patients do not find the bone marrow collection procedure particularly painful.

The entire procedure normally takes about 30 minutes.

Once the bone marrow collection is complete, patients may return to their hotel and go about normal activities.



Laboratory Processing

The next day, the stem cells are processed from the bone marrow in a state-of-the-art, government approved (cGMP) laboratory.



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In the lab, both the quantity and quality of the stem cells are measured. These cells have the potential to transform into multiple types of cells and are capable of regenerating or repairing damaged heart tissue.

Stem Cell Implantation

On the third day, the stem cells are implanted back into the patient by angiography under local anesthesia. A special catheter (thin hollow wire) is inserted into the femoral artery and then guided forward under x-ray scanning until it reaches the targeted areas where the stem cells are then injected. During this procedure, additional treatments such as coronary artery stenting can be performed if necessary. The angiography procedure takes about 90 minutes. Once all the cells have been successfully implanted, patients stay at the hospital overnight for monitoring and to allow the catheter entry point to close properly. They may return home after being released from the hospital the following day.

Cost

The cost for the XCell-Center's heart treatment is 11,500 Euros.



Dr. C. Beythien, cardiologist

In Focus: Aaron Wood - Back to Normal after Stem Cell Heart Treatment in Düsseldorf

We share with you the story of Mr. Aaron Wood, a heart patient from the United States who was treated at the XCell-Center in Düsseldorf, Germany in May 2009. Just 5 months after treatment, Mr. Wood, who had suffered 3 heart attacks and had a left ventricular ejection fraction of just 19% before treatment, reports that he is now symptom free.

Heart attack at 38

I suffered from a massive heart attack in 1988; the result was a necrosis of the backside of my heart. A large part of my cardiac muscle was replaced by scar tissue. Two more heart attacks followed in 1990 and 1992. In 1994, I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Our ranch was claimed in 1904 and I was raised in a family of ranchers, but my active life as a rancher was over after the first heart attack. It seems a family tradition: 16 Woods passed away from heart-damage and I was living in constant fear of dying. Nine angiograms were performed and stents were placed. During these years I turned down two possible heart transplants because I did not want to live with the immune suppressive medications for the rest of my life.

However, I tried to live my life as actively as possible; taking part in a 5,000 mile motor cycle vacation in 1994 where I got sick. I did not think I would make it home alive. My friend got me home and a pacemaker was implanted which, at that time, worked wonders.

Six months ago, after an examination that showed a very poor cardiac function and my EF capacity down to 19 %, a nurse finally suggested to me that I could look up XCell-Center and inquire about stem cell treatment. I contacted their representatives, sent all my medical records for evaluation and was accepted as a patient. I was quite anxious about the outcome and was not certain if I would make it back home and made preparations for the worst case. I did not want to worry my daughter who accompanied me to Düsseldorf. She had to wheel me in a wheelchair, as I could walk only a short distance by myself.

Stem cell therapy

At the XCell-Center clinic in Düsseldorf, bone marrow was extracted from my hip bone and sent to a laboratory where

stem cells were separated from it. Two days later the stem cells were re-implanted by catheter therapy by cardiologist Dr. Christian Beythien during a 45-minute interventional therapy.

I was hospitalized and connected to a portable heart-monitor for one night at the hospital. When I awoke in the middle of the night, at about 4 AM, I felt like something was entirely different. I got up and did 4 knee-bends and 4 push-ups and did not get light headed! I was thinking this could be a placebo, but was too excited to go back to sleep and walked up and down the hallways for the next 2 ½ hours. I liked it!

When a check-up electrocardiogram was done in the morning, the nurse ran it 3 times with a confused look on his face. He could not believe the result he saw and contacted my surgeon Dr. Beythien. I started to worry! Dr. Beythien was there within 3 minutes. He performed a half hour electrocardiogram test and showed me what he saw: the backside of my heart was pumping! Only one day after treatment my EF capacity went up from 15 % to 35 %.

It was a miracle! I had gone from a terminal illness to having a future. I carried my own bags and walked on my own two feet when returning to back home to the US, just 5 days later. My Doc back home examined me 10 days after stem cell therapy and agreed to have my pacemaker turned down.

My new life

A recent check-up showed my EF capacity at 45- 55 %. Just two weeks after treatment, I went from 15 prescription pills per day down to 2; walk 2.5 miles without turning blue, lift weights and – finally after 22 years - live a normal life.

I am going skydiving next weekend, something I last enjoyed 3 years ago.

I am amazed and really believe in stem cell therapy. My brother is a diabetic and my banker has a heart condition. Both are planning to seek treatment at XCell in the near future and I support and encourage them in their plans.

Update, October 7th 2009:

I no longer have any angina pain or no shortness of breath – no symptoms whatsoever. I am walking 3 miles per day and lifting heavy weights again. I consider this a complete reversal. I saw my cardiologist 2 weeks ago for more testing and he is still shaking his head!

XCell-Center Launches Neuro-endoscopic Autologous Stem Cell Treatments in Düsseldorf

Our state-of-the-art treatment center in Düsseldorf is now treating patients via neuro-endoscopic autologous stem cell implantation (NEASCI™)



Dr. U. Tamaschke, neurosurgeon

This innovative technique allows XCell-Center neurosurgeons to implant each patient's own stem cells directly into the fluid spaces that surround his or her brain, thus achieving more accurate targeting of stem cells than with other implantation methods such as intrathecal or intravenous injection.

We are optimistic that NEASCI, (pronounced "nee-see") will prove to be a valuable enhancement to our already impressive repertoire of stem cell implantation techniques that include intrathecal injection and direct surgery for neurological disorders and spinal cord injury, angiography for heart disease and diabetes, retrobulbar injection for various eye diseases and intravenous/intramuscular injections for other indications.

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NEASCI is especially suited to the treatment of neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy, organic brain damage, oxygen deficiency, congenital brain malformations and brain damage caused by inflammation from meningitis, encephalitis, cerebral hemorrhage or skull-brain trauma.

"As the world leader in autologous stem cell therapy,

we are constantly striving to improve the effectiveness of our treatments by developing advanced technology such as NEASCI," commented Dr. Uta Tamaschke, the pediatric neurosurgeon at the XCell-Center who developed NEASCI.

NEASCI is accomplished by inserting a mini-endoscope through a small hole (6 mm) in the patient's skull. Once in-

side the cerebral fluid space, the stem cells are released via a catheter that is guided through the endoscope.

Prior to surgery, physical and functional damage will be assessed by computer tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET).

Pricing for NEASCI treatment begins at 17,800 Euros.



Picture: Janos (Cerebral Palsy) visiting the XCell-Center for his second therapy.

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