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Stem cell therapy for COPD

Burton Feinerman

Stem Cell Regen Med Inc., USA

Abstract

COPD is a devastating disease affecting millions of people throughout the world. Their life style is very limited due to associated dyspnea on even minimal exertion. Treatments in the past are usually combination of bronchodilators and prednisone which gives only temporary relief. Most patients with advanced COPD require the use of oxygen 24 hours a day.

Stem cell therapy targets the disease process itself. In the past four years I have treated over eight hundred patients with advanced COPD. Patients are evaluated by chest x-ray, CT scan of the lungs, pulmonary function tests and the six minute walk measuring with pulse ox.

Treatment consists of administration of autologous adipose stem cells obtained by mini-liposuction using tumescent anesthesia. These are administered intravenously and by positive pressure nebulizer. Patients are given agents to stimulate the number of stem cells in the lungs prior to treatment and also for three days afterwards. Other growth factors are given at the time of treatment and continued every two weeks following the treatment for a period of six months.

I have found that pulmonary hypertension is associated in a very percentage of patients. This needs to be evaluated and treated. Therapy for this is usually the use of progenitor endothelial cells; vascular endothelial growth factor along with the use of Iloprost supervised by an experienced cardiologist or pulmonologist. We have also found that the phytoestrogen Genistein given by mouth can also control even severe pulmonary hypertension.

Biography

Burton Feinerman, completed his M.D. studies at New York Medical College at age of 25 in 1954; his postdoctoral studies were done at the Mayo Clinic. He is President of Stem Cell Regen Med and Chief Physician at the Lung Institute in Tampa, Florida. He has patents for stem cell and/or gene therapies for many neurodegenerative diseases and genetic disorders in children and adults. He has been active in presenting lectures at international medical meetings and published papers in peer review journals.