



Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics

Statement on Stem Cell Therapy for Autism and Neurobehavioral Disorders

Initially issued on October 8, 2013

Reaffirmed with Updates on September 17, 2022

The science of stem cell therapy is continuously evolving. Several studies involving stem cells and its use for autism and developmental disabilities have been conducted.

Stem cell **types** used in these studies include mesenchymal stem cells from human umbilical cord blood and bone marrow, and mononuclear cells. Protocols for doses and methods of administration have not yet been established. Current scientific data suggest that there are **side effects** such as fever, fatigue, headache, hyperactivity, swelling or discomfort on injection site, and aggression during the course of treatment.

The Society acknowledges the potential of using stem cell therapy as a management option for developmental disabilities with a few studies. However, there is currently **no strong scientific evidence** to recommend the use of stem cells as treatment for neurodevelopmental disabilities and central nervous system disorders including but not limited to autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, global developmental delay and intellectual disability. In addition, there are **no** published studies in peer-reviewed scientific journals on the safety profile of commercially available stem cell treatments in the Philippines.

Since the **long term safety and effectiveness** of the use of stem cells in humans have not been established at this time, the Society reaffirms its stand that the use of stem cells for these conditions should be confined to **well-designed clinical trials that include the necessary ethical, scientific and regulatory controls**.

The Society strongly encourages the public to be **discerning** when choosing interventions for their children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. The Society strongly recommends the use of **evidence-based interventions** for developmental and behavioral conditions, under the guidance and recommendation of a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician or Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician duly board certified to practice in the Philippines.

References:

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