Embryonic stem cells in ALS

Smikodub O

National Medical University and Embryonic Tissues Center EmCell, Cell Therapy Clinic, Solomenskaya Str. 17, POB 80 UKRAINE, 03110 Kiev

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61 patients, mean age 48.4±16.3, were treated for ALS. Duration of the disease: up to 1 year ? 10 patients, 2 years ? 18, 3 years ? 29, over 3 years ? 4. Course of treatment envisaged administration of 4 cell suspensions containing mesenchymal, ectodermal, and endodermal stem cells obtained from growth zones of 4-8 weeks old cadaverous embryos’ systems and organs; amounts administered varied from 0.5 to 4 ml, cell count - from 0.1 to 100x105/ml. During the first course of treatment, 67% of patients reported decreased weakness, improved appetite, decreased fasciculations, decreased spasticity, and higher spirits. In the course of 2 months, 34% of patients observed increased range of motions in the extremities, decreased muscular rigidity, lower reflexes, decreased number of fasciculating muscle zones, better endurance of daily loads, less expressed dysphagia and dysarthria. In 3-6 months, 58% of patients reported aggravation of condition and reversion of relevant symptoms. II treatment was performed in 24 cases, III course ? in 8 cases, IV course ? in 3 cases.

Conclusions:

1. Embryonic stem cells do not terminate degenerative process, but provide for palliation of ALS course.
2. The best results were achieved in the patients with up to 1 year ALS history.