

Access to stem cell treatments

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Ethical dilemmas

- How to provide incentives to develop therapies while insuring access to those in need?
- How to provide fair access within unfair insurance system?

Relevance of HIV analogy in making care affordable?

- Effectiveness of advocacy
- Effectiveness of publicity over costs

Relevance of HIV analogies?

- **Geopolitical issues**
 - Nations in South declare public health emergency
- **Drugs can be cheaply manufactured as generics**
- **Drugs can be simply administered**

Relevance of HIV analogies?

- Cell-based therapies more difficult to manufacture
- Cell-based therapies difficult to administer

Relevance of transplantation analogy?

- **Cost of care**
 - Public pressure to pay for dramatic life-saving treatments
 - Ongoing care also needs to be covered

Challenges to make stem cell therapies accessible

- **Monitoring and testing**
 - Imaging studies to determine if additional doses needed

Challenges to make stem cell therapies accessible

- **Controlling cost of stem cells may not control cost of therapy**
 - Administration of therapy
 - Surgical implantation into central nervous system
 - Direct infusion into target organ?
 - Ancillary therapies (immunosuppression)

Challenges to make stem cell therapies accessible

- **Controlling cost of stem cells may not control cost of therapy**
 - Monitoring and tests
 - May need special imaging studies

Challenges to make stem cell therapies accessible

- Need to make all health care affordable



Transplantation in Parkinson's

- Embryonic dopaminergic neurons
- Randomized trial,
- Transplants function
- No improvement in clinical outcomes
- Late disabling dyskinesias in 15%

NEJM 2001;344:710