Access to stem cell treatments

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Not speaking for CIRM

March 3, 2006
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