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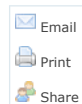
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## Stem cells with human heart tissue 'reprogrammed' to improve treatments

ANI

Thursday, May 20, 2010 13:13 IST

**Washington, DC:** For the first time, Spanish researchers have used adult cells extracted from human heart tissue to turn stem cells from adipose tissue into cardiac myocytes.



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expression of reverse transcription.

Thus, mesenchimal stem cells acquired a cardiac phenotype.

The technique, developed by researchers from the University of Jaen (Spain), the University of Granada, the Hospital Clínico Universitario de Malaga and the University of Bath (United Kingdom), could be used in the future for regeneration of cardiac muscles through the use of cells directly extracted from the patient.

However, physicians have remarked that, at present, this research is in its earlier stage; it will be a long time until it has any therapeutical use.

Definition

Currently, researchers are preparing a new approach for introducing the cell extract into the target cell (by using a cell microinjector) that will allow them to obtain a larger number of viable differentiated cells, which is essential for their having any therapeutical use.

The following step is to use animal models to validate differentiated cells' functionality.

Finally, a number of clinical trials should be conducted to assess the viability of this technique in human patients.

It is going to be published on the Journal Cytotherapy, the official reporting organ of the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT).

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