

DCGI gives approval to Stempeutics Research

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NEW DELHI: The drug controller general of India (DCGI) has given approval to Stempeutics Research, a Manipal Group company, for conducting clinical trials in India for its new stem cell based drug for treating cardio vascular diseases.

The regulators granted the approval after examining the proposal in detail as the drug is the first of its kind in the country. The approval for conducting trials was given almost after 18 months of its filing the application, a company statement said.

"Stem cell [therapy](#) aims at addressing the root cause of the disease rather than the symptoms. Our goal is to bring out stem cell based drug in the near future. We will hit the market with our first product by end of 2011.

While the initial foray of Stempeutics is in bone marrow derived mesenchymal stem cells, Stempeutics is investing heavily on its R&D to bring out some innovative products in the near future based on adult stem cells.

There will be continuous research for each disease so as to improve product development for effective therapy. Research will be conducted on effective cell number, route of transplantation," Stempeutics Research president BN Manohar President said.

Indian Council for [Medical Research](#) (ICMR) constituted an expert committee on stem cell research therapy to examine the proposal. India becomes one of the leading countries after USA to enter this phase of stem cell research.

"We believe that stem cells would be a major branch of medical treatment and would be a standard of [cure](#) and practice in the years to come.

Regenerative medicine is a rapidly emerging area of biomedical research with enormous therapeutic potential world wide, and this would be an ideal [supplement](#) for existing medical treatments," Manipal Education & Medical Group managing director and CEO Dr Ranjan Pai said.

Till date Stempeutics has filed seven patents in India and six international patents. As on date Stempeutics has established three state of the art labs – two in India and one in Malaysia.

The global market for stem cell therapies is estimated to be \$ 20 billion by 2010. Adult stem cell therapy currently dominates the global stem cells market with a share of almost 58%. The expected current stem cell therapy market in India is around \$ 540 million and expected to grow rapidly.

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