

Patients treated with own olfactory ensheathing cells realize neurologic improvement

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A team of researchers in Poland who treated three of six paraplegics with spinal cord injury using transplanted olfactory ensheathing cells found that the three treated patients showed neurological improvement and no adverse effects while the three control patients who did not receive transplants saw no improvement.

The study appears as an early e-publication for the journal *Cell Transplantation*.

"Most accepted treatments for spinal cord injury focus on techniques of early neuro-protection aimed at maximum prevention of secondary spinal cord injury and methods to stimulate plasticity in the [central nervous system](#)," said study corresponding author Dr. Pawel Tabakow of the Department of Neurosurgery, Wroclaw Medical University in Wroclaw, Poland. "These measures have helped patients with incomplete spinal injury, but results in patients with complete spinal injury remained limited."

According to the researchers, among the various kinds of neurotrophic cells being tested for transplantation to treat spinal cord injury, OECs deserve "special attention" because they are unique in their natural ability to stimulate regrowth of lesioned [axons](#) and "evoke long-distance axon regeneration and subsequent recovery of locomotion in paralyzed limbs."

Provided by Cell Transplantation Center of Excellence for Aging and
Brain Repair

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