

Stem cell-based screening methods may predict heart-related side effects of drugs

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Coaxing stem cells from patients to become heart cells may help clinicians personalize drug treatments and prevent heart-related toxicity.

A new review looks at the potential of this strategy, noting that these so-called human pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes may be used in screening methods to determine which patients are at risk of experiencing heart-damaging effects of chemotherapy agents and other drugs.

Such screening methods for cardiotoxicity might also help boost the number of drugs that succeed in clinical trials. "Human [pluripotent stem cells](#) are poised to revolutionize drug discovery in cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Christine Mummery, senior author of the *British Journal of Pharmacology* study.

More information: Luca Sala et al. Integrating cardiomyocytes from human pluripotent stem cells in safety pharmacology: has the time come?, *British Journal of Pharmacology* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/bph.13577](#)

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