EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS: WHERE DO WE STAND AT THE MOMENT?

Sanja Raščanin1, Nemanja Rančić2, Saša Dragović3, Mirjana Jovanović1,4

1University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Kragujevac, Serbia
2Center for Clinical Pharmacology, Military Medical Academy, Belgrade, Serbia
3Clinic for general surgery, Military Medical Academy, Belgrade, Serbia
4Psychiatric Clinic, Clinical Center "Kragujevac", Kragujevac, Serbia

Contact: Sanja Raščanin
Svetozara Markovića 69, 34 000 Kragujevac, Serbia
E-mail: rsanja.eko@gmail.com

Stem cells are functionally defined as cells that have the ability to self-replicate and generate differentiated cells. They can generate multiple differentiated cell types (multipotent or pluripotent) or produce one type of differentiated cells (unipotent) depending on the replication capacity and potency of stem cells. Today stem cells might have potential application in regenerative medicine, transplantation, treatment of autoimmune, chronic and progressive diseases, as well as disease modelling. Now we are faced with a dilemma between the two types of stem cells, which are more suitable for research and therapeutic use, which will be Embryonic Stem Cells (ESC) or Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSC)? ESCs represent the gold standard of pluripotency in vitro, which compares all other types of stem cells, but iPSC are more convenient in autologous transplants because of the avoidance of tissue rejection and without ethical concerns. The aim of this paper is presenting the most important characteristics of the ESCs which have therapeutic significance.

Acta Medica Medianae 2019;58(3):138-146.

Key words: embryonic stem cells, legislation, therapy