

Stem cells from umbilical cord blood may help treat eczema

7 June 2016

A new study suggests that treatment with stem cells from umbilical cord blood might be an effective therapy for patients with moderate-to-severe eczema, or atopic dermatitis.

For the clinical trial, 34 patients were randomly assigned to receive a low dose or [high dose](#) of the cells subcutaneously. Fifty five percent of patients who received the high dose showed a 50% reduction in what's known as the Eczema Area and Severity Index score at week 12. Immune-related markers of [atopic dermatitis](#) also decreased significantly.

"This study is a first-in-class study demonstrating that adults with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis responded to a treatment of stem cells derived from [umbilical cord blood](#)," said Dr. Tae-Yoon Kim, senior author of the *Stem Cells* study. "The single treatment of stem cells in patients resulted in the significant and persistent improvement in disease symptoms throughout the follow-up period of 12 weeks."

More information: Hyung-Sik Kim et al, Clinical Trial of Human Umbilical Cord Blood-derived Stem Cells for the Treatment of Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis: Phase I/IIa Studies, *STEM CELLS* (2016). [DOI: 10.1002/stem.2401](https://doi.org/10.1002/stem.2401)

Provided by Wiley

APA citation: Stem cells from umbilical cord blood may help treat eczema (2016, June 7) retrieved 2 May 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-06-stem-cells-umbilical-cord-blood.html>

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