

LifeCell – Daily News Update

May 26 , 2009

Direct News:

Publication	timesofindia.indiatimes.com
Headline	Menstrual cups for women from June
Gist of the article	<p>No more pads or tampons, period. Indian women, like those in many developed countries, will soon have an additional option to handle monthly cycles: menstrual cups.</p> <p>These soft, flexible silicon cups that can be inserted into the vagina to hold menstrual discharge for a whole day will be launched in June. A cup, which costs Rs 1,000, can be reused after daily cleaning, for up to five years. This is also a prelude to another option women will have, of banking menstrual blood, a rich source of stem cells, just like cord blood.</p> <p>Lifecell International will launch the menstrual cups at select retail outlets, beauty salons, spas and skin clinics, where women will be counselled on the no-spill, odourless, reusable cups. Lifecell has signed an MoU with the parent company Alicia Cups for distribution of the product in India.</p> <p>During a pre-launch survey in which the product was introduced to women through gynaecologists, the company found that the first reaction from most women wasn't encouraging. "Though they are uncomfortable at first, women wanted to try it out," says Lifecell international executive director Mayur Abhaya.</p> <p>Mumbai-based Sapna V, a freelance copy writer for an advertising agency, who has used the cups for six months, agrees. "I felt squeamish when they first told me about it. Now, I am at ease with it," she says. Others like Chennai-based Chandrika, an entrepreneur are happy not to be adding to the landfills.</p> <p>The cups were first patented in the US in the 1930s, but did not become popular as they were made of latex or plastic. "But after silicon cups were launched in the 1990s, many women began to accept it. These are made of medical-grade silicon and are FDA-approved," says Mayur.</p> <p>Besides the comfort and safety, the cost factor is likely to impress the Indian market. On an average, a woman spends anything between Rs 100 to 150 on sanitary packs every month. "This would mean she spends Rs 3,600 in two</p>

	<p>years and Rs 9,000 in five years. A pod costs Rs 1,000. Though the pack says it can be used up to five years, we advise women to change it two years. Whichever way, it's cost effective," says V Ravi Shankar, general manger (marketing), Lifecell International.</p> <p>Lifecell is also seeing this as the first step towards its menstrual blood banking project named Femme, to be launched in July. Women would be given a collection kit comprising a menstrual cup and collection tubes. The blood will be processed and preserved in liquid nitrogen at extremely low temperatures.</p> <p>Menstrual blood is a rich source of stem cells, says LifeCell chief scientific officer Dr Ajit Kumar. The endometrium-lining of the uterus regenerates every month. Research on stem cells provides knowledge about how healthy cells replace damaged ones in adults, leading to the possibility of cell-based therapy to treat diseases.</p> <p>Menstrual blood can be easily harvested in a painless, non-invasive manner. "And it also extends the scope of stem cell therapy to a larger section of the people. Cord blood is an option open to only those who are pregnant or those planning babies," he says.</p>
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Publication	prlog.org
Headline	LifeCell International to bring NxG stem cells technology to India
Gist of the article	<p>LifeCell International India's first & the largest stem cell banking service provider, which has also pioneered in stem cell research and technology, today announced its association with Harvest Technologies, a world leader in developing technologies that accelerate natural healing, to bring-in a next generation technology Bone Marrow Aspirate Concentrate (BMAC) system in India. BMAC is a USFDA and CE approved biological technology that accelerates the body's natural healing capacity, thereby improving surgical outcomes.</p> <p>Existing methods to produce a stem cell concentrate therapy are time consuming, labour intensive, and require complex logistical considerations. The BMAC System helps in safe and rapid preparation of cell concentrate from bone marrow. The process takes only about 15 minutes and can be conducted in the point of care setting.</p> <p>The system is currently being used clinically in many developed countries like US and Europe for various medical disciplines. These applications range from fractures, non-unions, osteonecrosis, cartilage repair applications and critical limb ischemia (CLI). The system will soon be applied for cardio vascular regeneration.</p> <p>LifeCell has implemented this technology for an ongoing Indian CLI study</p>

	<p>which is being led by Dr. K. S. Vijayragavan at Department of Vascular Surgery, SRMC. As per the data available on the interim study conducted on 30 patients after a 12 week followup major amputations were seen only in 4 patients and 6 of them went for minor amputation. The patients's also reported significant reduction in their pain perception and considerable improvement in quality of life. The study also emphasised the fact that the BMAC process is safe and the Intra-arterial infusion does not cause any adverse reaction.</p> <p>Talking on the association with Harvest Technologies, Mr. Mayur Abhaya, Executive Director, LifeCell International says, "We are excited to partner with Harvest Technologies to bring-in international standards to India. LifeCell International is today India's only comprehensive stem cells solutions provider as we offer a complete spectrum of services and with this association we intend to accelerate the availability of advanced stem cell therapy in India.</p>
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Key Industry News:

Publication	upi.com
Headline	<u>Stem cell research threatened by rules</u>
Gist of the article	<p>Research on stem cells in the United States is facing an uncertain future as a result of new regulations put into place by the government, an expert says.</p> <p>Amy Comstock Rick, Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research chief executive, said while U.S. President Barack Obama lifted federal funding restrictions for stem cell research, the controversial field is still facing hardships, The Washington Post said Monday.</p> <p>Rick said new regulations could stop some research groups from receiving federal funds and therefore threaten their human embryo stem cell research.</p> <p>"We're very concerned," Rick said. "If they don't change this, very little current research would be eligible. It's a huge issue."</p> <p>The Post said such concerns are due to the National Institutes of Health putting forward new ethics criteria for stem cell research that could significantly limit funding to such projects.</p> <p>"We know issues like this, among many issues, have been raised, and we will take them into consideration," NIH Acting Director Raynard S. Kington said of the strict regulations.</p>

Publication	philadelphia.bizjournals.com
Headline	<u>Stem cell therapy is going to the dogs</u>

Gist of the article

Dr. H. Scott Hufnagle has started taking a new approach to treat some of his arthritic patients. And those patients are likely to show their gratitude by licking his hand, or maybe wagging their tails.

Hufnagle, a veterinarian at the Indian Valley Animal Hospital here, is one of about two dozen animal doctors in the region using a California company's stem cell therapy to treat orthopedic injuries and arthritis in dogs, cats and horses.

In the past, the owners of such sick or injured animals would typically face choosing between invasive hip-replacement surgery, which entails a lengthy recovery period, or giving their pet a costly regimen of nonsteroidal medicines that carry potentially harmful side effects.