

Stem Cell Therapy - Liver Disease and Regenerative Medicine

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The Liver is a complex organ performing several vital functions in man. In acute disease and following surgical resections, the liver can regenerate, wherein the hepatocytes enter the cell cycle and divide repeatedly till the hepatic mass is restored. In the event of chronic injury, the liver loses this capacity to regenerate resulting in Hepatic Failure. Liver Transplantation is the treatment in this situation.

There is a growing interest in the field of Regenerative Medicine, Tissue engineering

and cell therapy. This has triggered research into search for such options to replace Liver transplantation. Stem cells and progenitor cells belonging to various lineages have been identified in Adult Liver. Possibilities exist in the future for use of hepatocytes, stem cells or liver progenitors to treat decompensated Liver diseases.

The Insights provided by such research, as well as the feasibility and hurdles in clinical translation in Hepatology will be discussed.

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