



The MND Association's policy statement on the use of stem cells

There is an urgent need for ongoing research if we are to stop motor neurone disease killing six people every day in the UK. We believe the use of stem cells in research is important to understanding, treating and ultimately finding a cure for MND.

There are many different types of stem cell, including induced pluripotent stem cells ('iPSCs'), adult stem cells (including blood stem cells) and embryonic stem cells.

Where stem cells are used, the vast majority of research we fund uses iPSCs, these are derived from human skin biopsies or from cells within the blood. These iPSCs can then be turned into motor neurones and other brain cells, enabling laboratory research into what kills motor neurones as well as screening potentially beneficial drugs.

As with all research we fund, there must be a clear potential benefit to people with MND and the research must be conducted following robust, legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks.

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