

LifeLines

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Turning Promise into Progress

Healing a Heart: Don's Story

In December 2011, CBS New York reported on an extraordinary case of the heart being healed with adult stem cells. At 58 years old, Don Robinson of Georgia suffered a heart attack. He graphically described the stabbing pains between his shoulder blades and a scan verified substantial heart muscle damage.

Dr. Arshed Quyyumi of Emory University explained to Don that such weakness of the heart can lead to congestive heart failure and possibly death. With that grim knowledge, Don enlisted in a Phase 1 clinical trial using his own adult stem cells to try to prevent further heart damage. Clinicians extracted bone marrow from Robinson's hip, purified it and isolated cells intended to enhance blood vessel formation, thereby preserving at-risk muscle and protecting it from further damage.

The overall outcome was that there appeared to be improved blood supply to the heart attack area. Six months later, a scan showed more active muscle. Don now has energy and can feel the difference. To illustrate his post-heart attack lifestyle, he colorfully says, "I'll cut a tree down, I'll haul the tree out of the woods."

The clinical trial that Don participated in was sponsored by Amorcyte, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of NeoStem, Inc. To learn more about clinical trials, visit www.clinicaltrials.gov. ■

