

# THE HINDU

## Stem cell therapy for Parkinson's disease patients

Mumbai (PTI): Parkinson's disease patients in the country will be able to avail stem cell therapy services for treatment of the degenerative disorder.

Jaslok Hospital and Reliance Life Sciences (RLS) have come together to explore the possibility of using the patient's own Mesenchymal stem cells for curing the disease, Dr Paresh Doshi, Head, Department of Stereostatic and Functional Neurosurgery, announced on World Parkinson's Disease Day on Thursday.

Parkinson's is a degenerative disease of the brain that often impairs motor skills, speech and other functions.

The cells found in the patients' bone marrow will be taken to the RLS lab, isolated, multiplied and induced towards neuronal (nerve cells) differentiation, he said.

At each stage of maturity, the cells will be screened for any damage or abnormality and once they reach a certain number, the specialised stem cells will be sent to Jaslok for implanting them in patients using stereostatic techniques.

As the cells are from the patient's own bone marrow, there is no potential rejection and side effects are also negated as they can multiply only for a limited time, he said.

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