

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Multipotent adult progenitor cell transplant to treat spinal cord injury	<p>Cell culture and rodent studies suggest that multipotent adult progenitor cells could help treat spinal cord injury. In cultured dorsal root ganglion cells isolated from rats, addition of progenitor cell-conditioned media led to neurite outgrowth compared with addition of control media. In a rat model of spinal cord injury, transplantation of the progenitor cells to the spinal cord prevented axonal degeneration and increased axonal regeneration compared with transplantation of a vehicle control. Next steps include measuring functional outcomes after progenitor cell treatment in other models of spinal cord injury.</p> <p>Athersys Inc.'s MultiStem multipotent adult progenitor cells are in preclinical to Phase II trials for stroke, bone marrow transplant, acute myocardial infarction and inflammatory bowel disease.</p> <p>Geron Corp.'s GRNOPC1 human embryonic stem cell-derived oligodendrocytes are in Phase I testing to treat spinal cord injury.</p> <p>SciBX 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.263 Published online March 3, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensed to Athersys	<p>Busch, S.A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3566-10.2011</p> <p>Contact: Jerry Silver, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: jxs10@cwru.edu</p>