

LifeCell and Stemade join hands for dental stem cell banking

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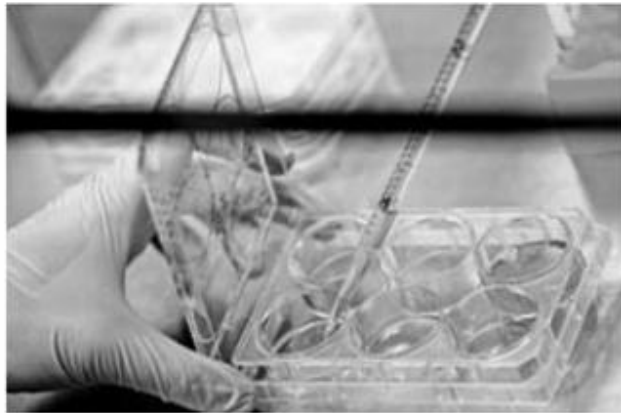
THE latest in the stem cell world — banking milk teeth and wisdom teeth for future stem cell applications — will soon be available in India with Chennai-based LifeCell International tying up with Stemade Biotech.

Stemade Biotech was set up recently by Mumbai-based business services provider Genvocal Strategic Services and French biopharma company Institut Clinident which is a licensor of the patented technology for extraction and cryopreservation of dental stem cells obtained from the pulp of the tooth.

As per the sources close to the development, LifeCell, which has over 50 centres across India and a client base of 25,000, will handle the collection of teeth, extraction of mesenchymal cells and their storage at its labs. Stemade Biotech will take care of the marketing and sales. Stemade is also in the process of creating a network of dentists in nine cities for extracting the teeth.

The technology transfer on the extraction and storage from Institut Clinident to LifeCell is happening presently. Institut Clinident already has some application of dental stem cells for bone degeneration.

Compared to bone mar-



Storing stem cells

■ Milk teeth and wisdom teeth banking for future stem cell applications will soon start in India with Chennai-based LifeCell International tying up with Stemade Biotech

■ Compared to bone marrow stem cells, which require invasive surgery, dental stem cells can be collected from baby teeth and wisdom teeth, which would otherwise be discarded

row stem cells, which require invasive surgery and cord blood and tissue stem cells that are available only at birth, dental stem cells can be collected from baby teeth and wisdom teeth, which would otherwise be discarded. Dental stem cells are not the subject to ethical concerns as embryonic stem cells.

According to studies, dental stem cells have inhibited capability to differentiate into bone, dental tissue, cartilage, and muscle, and there is even evidence that they may be able to differentiate into neural tissue.

The earliest applications will be for the repair of

damaged tooth structures and bone regeneration as this type of mesenchymal stem cell is pluri-potent and is mainly involved in solid tissue formation of the body. A few leading names in stem cell banking in India include LifeCell International, Reliance Life Sciences, Cryobanks International India and Cryo-Save India. Stem cells extracted from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood and tissue and menstrual blood are banked presently in the country. Efforts to procure stem cells from fat tissues are also on.

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