

# REBUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR SMILE

Advances in stem cell research



BY DR. PROVINES

**IN MY PRACTICE** I find it important to follow advancements in dentistry. Over the past decade, the world has been moving at the most rapid rate in history, and dental research has been keeping pace as well.

A new great advancement is the discovery of dental stem cells which can be utilized to grow human bone. As a Periodontist this is exciting news because one day this research will put periodontal dentistry in a leadership position to provide a safe, all-natural replicate service to their patients. It has long been recognized that stem cell therapy will be the future of medicine, however there is often the assumption that the advancement involves the medical, not the dental, community. The dental professions can now take pride in this exciting new possibility by raising awareness and educating their patients on the benefits of stem cell research replicate.

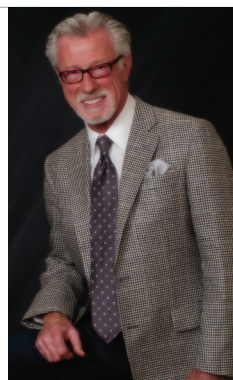
Unlike controversial embryonic stem cells, dental stem cells can be harvested successfully from the pulp chambers of youngsters' baby teeth as well as

permanent or wisdom teeth from patients who are well into their 20s or early 30s. The only differences are in the numbers of cells that can be extracted based on age

them onto a collagen sponge scaffold and then placed them into the lower open tooth sockets.

After three months all of the

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and their ability to replicate.

In a breakthrough clinical study, using the patients' own stem cells harvested from their own teeth, a group of Italian researchers from the 2nd University of Naples, Italy reported their latest findings. The study involved seven patients who required extraction of their lower impacted wisdom teeth which had created severe loss of bone on the back of the molars in front of them. The researchers extracted the upper wisdom teeth for pulp stem cell extraction. They then replicated the pulp stem cells and placed

patients had vertical repair and complete restoration of the destroyed periodontal bone. In addition to bone regeneration, a procedure using stem cells may provide a more thorough regeneration of periodontal tissue around dental implants, according to a new report published in the Journal of Oral Implantology.

As a dental surgeon who deals with patients who have lost bone through, either periodontal disease or extraction, it is very exciting and encouraging to know that the future holds great hope in the field of bone regeneration. <



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