

ETHICAL & MEDICO-LEGAL ISSUES IN STEM CELL THERAPY

Dr. S.K.Verma*

University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Abstract:

“Stem cells” are potentially immortal cells capable of self-renewal and also give rise to differentiated cells. These special cells has evoked unparallel enthusiasm and hope in treating number of diseases. Most medical experts view stem cell research as the new frontier in medicine, a breakthrough that could save millions of lives and billions of sufferings of human life.

A field full of such vast opportunities is bound to attract attention of large number of researchers and scientists’ world over. Therefore almost every day one or other report appears not only in the scientific journals but also in mass media. However, the therapy and research on stem cell is not free from ethical and medico-legal controversies that revolves around issues, such as: source of stem cell for therapy; consent; potential use versus alternatives; stem cell as commodity; moral and religious principles; risks involved etc. This is intended to discuss all these issues in detail along with critical evaluation of draft guidelines for its regulation in our country.

DR. S.K.VERMA*

*PROFESSOR OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES