



Concerned Women for America of Illinois presents:

Stem Cell Fact of the Day #8

"What we're finding is that actually baby teeth and extracted third molars are a wonderful source for adult stem cells that have applications to a large number of tissues and focusing now on cartilage, bone fat, dentin enamel, and periodontal ligament."

~ Dr. Mary McDougall, President-elect of the American Association for Dental Research

Adult Stem-cells Provide Dental Breakthrough

Family News in Focus, 2-18-05 (<http://www.family.org/cforum/fnif/news/a0035570.cfm>)

Tooth loss due to bone loss could become a thing of the past thanks to adult stem cell research.

When a person loses bone in their mouth, the next loss is teeth. But researchers say postnatal and adult stem cells are showing promise in restoring bones and teeth. It's all part of the regenerative dental medicine field and those involved say stem cells are leading to great discoveries....

The ability to make bone has been a dream of researchers for some time—now success may be in the offing. The American Association for Dental Research is heralding several advances thanks to bone marrow stem cells....

Dr. Mary McDougall, president-elect of the AADR, [said], "What we're finding is that actually baby teeth and extracted third molars are a wonderful source for adult stem cells that have applications to a large number of tissues and focusing now on cartilage, bone fat, dentin enamel, and periodontal ligament."

The research could help people like Dr. Jonathan Schuermann, who was born with a rare genetic disorder called ectodermal dysplasia. He's worn dentures since he was 3-years-old. "The next step in this process is to be able to grow my own teeth," Schuermann said. "That would be unbelievable. I can't imagine what it would be like."

And these discoveries don't come with the moral problems related to embryonic stem-cell research.

The stem cells can be easily obtained, since every person has his or her own stockpile.

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CWA endorses adult and umbilical cord stem cell research but condemns embryonic stem cell research as immoral.

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