



## Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

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### STEM CELL REALITY CHECK # 1

**Myth:** “*Embryonic stem cells are the most effective for treating disease*”

**Reality:** Actually, they’re not. Embryonic stem cells have not helped a single human patient or demonstrated any therapeutic benefit. By contrast, adult stem cells and other ethically acceptable alternatives have already helped hundreds of thousands of patients, and new clinical uses expand almost weekly. Consider:

#### Juvenile diabetes

##### Adult Pancreatic Islet Cells

15 people with serious Type I (juvenile) diabetes became “insulin free” after adult pancreatic islet cell transplants; 9 still need no insulin injections.

- American Diabetes Assoc. Report, June 24, 2001

##### Embryonic Stem Cells

No person has benefitted.

#### Spinal cord injury

##### Adult Immune-System Cells

A young woman rendered paraplegic by a car accident can move her toes and legs after injection of her own immune-system cells into her severed spinal cord.

- Toronto *Globe and Mail*, June 15, 2001

##### Embryonic Stem Cells

No person has benefitted.

#### Immune deficiency

##### Adult Bone Marrow Stem Cells

2 children born without immune systems (“bubble boy” syndrome) have left their sterile environment and lead normal lives after bone marrow stem cell treatment.

-*Science, The Washington Post*, April 28, 2000

##### Embryonic Stem Cells

No person has benefitted.

#### Corneal repair

##### Adult Corneal Stem Cells

Several legally blind people can now see more clearly after their corneas were reconstructed with corneal stem cells.

- *New England Journal of Medicine*, July 13, 2000

##### Embryonic Stem Cells

No person has benefitted.

***Let’s fund promising medical research that everybody can live with.***  
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