

# Stem cell transplantation in human testis for the treatment of male infertility

**Submission date**  
05/01/2009

**Recruitment status**  
No longer recruiting

☐ Prospectively registered

☐ Protocol

**Registration date**  
27/02/2009

**Overall study status**  
Completed

☐ Statistical analysis plan

☐ Results

**Last Edited**  
27/02/2009

**Condition category**  
Urological and Genital Diseases

☐ Individual participant data

☐ Record updated in last year

**Plain English summary of protocol**  
Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**  
1

## Study information

**Scientific Title**

Bone marrow stem cell transplantation in human testis for men with severe oligospermia or azospermia: a pilot study

### **Study objectives**

Testes have two main functions in mammals: to produce androgens and spermatogenesis which occurs in the seminiferous tubules. Spermatogonial stem cells are undifferentiated cells defined by their ability to both self-renew and differentiate into mature spermatozoa. Bone marrow stem cells (BMS cells) have been shown to be able to transdifferentiate to male germ cell-like cells. In male mice, a recent study has demonstrated that bone marrow stem cells are able to differentiate into primordial germ cells and spermatogonia both in vitro and in vivo.

In a more recent study, adult bone marrow cells injected into seminiferous tubules or interstitial spaces were not only able to differentiate into germ cells (spermatogonia and spermatocytes) but as well as Sertoli and Leydig cells. This finding may be of clinical relevance to unique treatment of male infertility. The ability to derive male germ cells from BMS cells opens the possibilities for use of these cells in reproductive medicine mainly male infertility. In order to encourage BMS cells to differentiate into germ cells, the isolated cells should be cultured in a medium very similar to that found in the testes. Thus, Obtaining BMS cells from the infertile man and injecting it - after preparation - into the seminiferous tubules or around it may stimulate its differentiation into germ cells.

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

The Farah Hospital Ethical Committee, approved on 13/12/2008 (ref: 1).

### **Study design**

Prospective randomised controlled trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Treatment

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Male infertility and spermatogenesis

### **Interventions**

Forty men with severe oligospermia and 20 men with azospermia will be recruited (total: 60 participants).

Participants will be randomised to have BMS cells transplantation or no therapy. In the oligospermia group, 20 cases will receive BMS cells and in the azospermia group, only 10 will receive it. Randomisation ratio will be 1:1.

For safety of participants, BMS cells will be injected in one testis only and the other testis will be spared.

### **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Phase**

Not Specified

## **Primary outcome(s)**

1. Laboratory safety: White Cell Count (WCC) and platelet count, assessed once per month for three month
2. In azospermia group: Histopathology of evidence of differentiation. Testicular biopsy will be obtained after three month of injection.
3. In oligospermia group: Significant increase in number of sperms on three successive semen samples, assessed after 1, 2 and 3 months of injection

All primary outcome measures will be followed up for 180 days.

## **Key secondary outcome(s))**

1. Sperm activity and ability to fertilise oocyte, assessed each time sperm is obtained throughout the study
2. Pregnancy rate within one year of injection
3. Miscarriage rate within one year of injection
4. Long term follow-up for any adverse effect, assessed for one year from injection

All secondary outcome measures will be followed-up for one year.

## **Completion date**

01/06/2010

# **Eligibility**

## **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Men with idiopathic severe oligospermia defined as less than one million sperm per ml, or men with azospermia
2. Men between 20-50 years old
3. Normal serum levels of gonadotropines, testosterone and prolactine
4. Absence of infectious genital disease and anatomical abnormalities of the genital tract
5. Absence of smoking, drug addiction or alcohol consumption

## **Participant type(s)**

Patient

## **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

## **Age group**

Adult

## **Sex**

Male

## **Key exclusion criteria**

1. Men with previous surgery in testis
2. Those with major medical problem such as malignancy, hepatitis, etc.

**Date of first enrolment**

15/01/2009

**Date of final enrolment**

01/06/2010

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

Jordan

**Study participating centre**

The Farah Hospital

Amman

Jordan

11183

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

The Farah Hospital (Jordan)

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/02qnpb65>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**Funder Name**

The Farah Hospital (Jordan)

## **Results and Publications**

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

**IPD sharing plan summary**  
Not provided at time of registration

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes