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Stem cells and growth factors in the spine; Myth or reality?

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Disc degeneration is an extraordinary common pathology among human kind that can generate back or radicular pain. 90% of the patients' response to either physical therapy or medical treatment though 10% of the patients suffer from chronic back and/or leg pain. All this is an important health problem for any healthcare system with an enormous economic and social impact. Usual management of chronic cases requires fusion surgery, which also generates loss of mobility, adjacent DDD, and sagittal disbalance. Autologous mesenchymal cells have proved an efficacy of 71% at 12 months follow-up, though the use of allogenic mesenchymal stem cells would simplify the procedure and make it accessible to a wider range of the population. Facet joint degeneration is as frequent as DDD, radiofrecuencia or steroids blocks are part of the symptomatic treatment. As synovial joint growth factors can play a role both in treating the pain and slowing the degeneration. Clinical trials with control groups are ongoing in both pathologies.

Biography

David C Noriega is member of the Royal Academy of Surgery and Medicine of Valladolid, as well as Honorary assistant to the University of Valladolid. The research of his PhD was based on the ability to achieve anatomical-biomechanical reduction to vertebral compression fractures. He has published widely in the field of spine pathologies. He is the PI of several clinical trials about stem cells, neuromodulation in the spine and vertebral compression fractures as well as is conducting several biomechanical studies about vertebral fractures. He is Chairman at several training symposium about spine pathologie.

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