

PRESS RELEASE

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The use of Stem Cells from aborted fetuses

The national pro-life charity LIFE has reacted with alarm at the news that Great Ormond Street Hospital will soon be using stem cells from aborted foetuses to try to treat Brittle Bone Disease.

LIFE Spokesman Mark Bhagwandin said “Whilst it is laudable that scientists are trying to discover a cure for this terrible disease, their experiments using the remains of fetuses destroyed in the abortion industry raises serious ethical issues. The taking of cells from the body of an unborn child destroyed during abortion and infusing them into the body of another unborn child with the hope of treating a disease is the sort of Frankensteinian science for which we should call a halt. Human fetuses are not just clusters of cells. They are tiny human beings. We believe in the essential value and dignity of every human being at all stages of life. It is a principle currently violated by the daily destruction of hundreds of babies in the womb which will now be compounded by the use of their remains for experimentation on other human beings.

Serious practical concerns should also be raised when there is collaboration between medical research and the abortion industry. Could the industry one day demand payment for aborted fetal tissue as we have seen in the United States, and if it does, could the 200,000 abortions a year suddenly rise even more to feed a new demand? Could the possibility arise of aborted fetuses deliberately being kept alive as they await the harvesting of their cells?

Apart from the ethical considerations we should also rightly be concerned about the safety of the unborn babies being treated using fetal stem cells. This research is in the very early stages and its long term effects are not known.

It is disappointing that some sections of the scientific community continue to forge ahead with research on treatments which are ethically unsound and often fail to deliver any real success. The positive alternative lies in adult stem cells for which there have been proven successes and quite significant progress in research around the world. Rather than raise the hopes of millions of people about ethically unsound and possibly dangerous treatments, we should be investing in research where there has actually been strong progress.”

END

For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502

LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation.