



SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM

Directed by Cardiovascular Consultants, P.A.

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NEWS

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Research study may result in new treatment option for patients with severe peripheral artery disease

Saint Luke's only health facility in Kansas City area offering the trial

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Patients suffering from pain when walking, standing, or resting due to lack of blood flow may have access to relief through an investigational treatment option being researched locally only at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City.

During the aging process, plaque can build up in the blood vessels of the legs. The reduced blood flow prevents the legs and feet from receiving oxygen and nutrients needed for proper function and may lead to pain or weakness. The condition, called Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) or critical limb ischemia, can result in foot sores, ulcers, gangrene, and even amputation.

Current treatments can improve the blood flow in some patients using bypass operations, stents or other techniques. However, many other patients are not candidates for medical and surgical procedures.

Saint Luke's Hospital is participating in a research study for an investigational treatment involving the removal of stem cells from the patient's own bone marrow and injection into the leg to possibly improve blood flow.

Sponsored by Harvest Technologies Inc., the study uses the company's BMAC System to rapidly produce stem and precursor cells from a small sample of autologous (self) bone marrow. By injecting the patient's own stem cells into areas of the leg with reduced blood supply, researchers hope to trigger the creation of new blood vessels when the body's own repair systems can no longer compensate for the severely blocked arteries.

Qualified study participants are randomized for comparison, with two out of every three patients receiving the investigational treatment and one out of every three patients receiving a simulated or "control" treatment.

“For patients with no options and at high risk for amputation, this offers tremendous potential to save limbs, reduce pain, and improve quality of life,” said vascular surgeon Keith B. Allen, M.D., principal investigator for the research study at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute.

For information on eligibility, call (816) 932-6053.

Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute is a member of Saint Luke’s Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.

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