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Amniotic Fluid Good to Go

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What has long been suspected was confirmed in a recent study of amniotic fluid, namely, that the substance is a good source of stem cells for regenerative medicine. The study confirmed that amniotic fluid collected during the third trimester contains mesenchymal stem cells. These stem cells are multifunctional and have the potential to grow into different organs and tissues. The study was presented at the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine's annual meeting held this February in San Francisco.

"I am very excited about these findings as they affirm amniotic fluid as an excellent source of cells for tissue regeneration," said Dr. Lucy Baker, the chief Maternal Fetal Medicine Doctor at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Boston, and one of the investigators for the study. "I recommend that moms undergoing prenatal tests in the second or third trimester discuss saving this fluid with their doctor.

Kate Torchilin, Ph.D., the CEO of Biocell Center, a firm that does amniotic fluid banking, said, "Research with these stem cells is leading to significant medical discoveries and the only way to take advantage is to plan ahead and preserve now. Amniotic fluid preservation has been available in Europe for several years. According to Torchilin, 160 human clinical trials are underway around the world that are evaluating cells similar to the ones found in amniotic fluid.

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