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CTL helps child with steroid-refractory acute GVHD

For three months during the fall of 2012, staff at the Cellular Therapy Lab at Blood Systems Laboratories worked closely with a children's hospital to administer human Mesenchymal Stem Cells (hMSC) to a 9-year-old child with steroid-refractory acute graft-vs-host disease (aGVHD). The patient was accepted into a clinical trial protocol and received the cells under compassionate use. GVHD is a disease in which the donor leukocytes attack the host tissues after an allogeneic stem cell transplant. In this case, the donor leukocytes were attacking the patient's skin and gastrointestinal tract. Scientists believe hMSC modulate the patient's immune system by downregulating T-cell proliferation.

At last report, 6 months after this treatment, the patient was doing well. Research indicates hMSC show promise for treatment of GVHD, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and cardiac events.