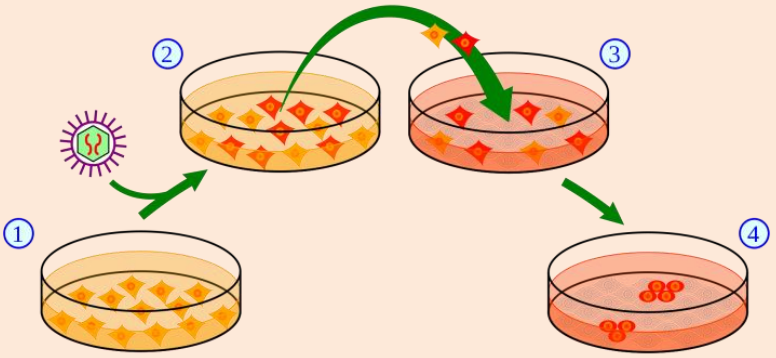
Dignitas Personae



On Certain Bioethical Questions

Stem cells have the potential to become many different types of cells, depending upon the signals they receive. (heart, liver, bone, muscle, nerve etc.) They can be transferred to damaged parts of the body, replacing bad cells with healthy cells.

Adult Stem Cells exist in different organ systems. They are undifferentiated cells found in most adult tissue. There role is to repair damaged cells throughout their stem cell department. They do not cause rejection, because they are initially taken from the patients body. Scientists are continuing to find various scientific ways to “turn back the clock” on a differentiated (adult) cell into a pluripotent cells without the creation and destruction of embryos. There have been 100’s of 1000’s of cures using adult stem cells.

Embryonic Stem cell research requires an embryo or fetus. The four main sources for non-adult or embryonic stem cells is the surplus of embryos from In-Vitro-Fertilization, creating an embryo in a laboratory setting using donated human eggs, cells from aborted fetuses or human cloning (SCNT- Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer). This process can cause tumors (teratomas) as well as Immune System Rejection (except in the case of human cloning) where you create your own identical self. Embryonic stem cells have not provided any cures as of today.

Catholic Church is in favor of adult stem cell research while
opposing embryonic stem cell research because of the life-destroying way the stem cells are gathered.