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Cell therapy and its emerging markets

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The field of stem cell research has come a long way from the early days of bone marrow transplant and has progressed into the sophisticated domain of embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cell. It has addressed the risks that were faced during the emergence of genetic engineering. In fact, it has reached critical mass with a number of private sector companies carrying out cutting-edge research and a number of governments recognizing the significant impacts it would have on the well-being of humanity with the promise of significant reduction of the healthcare costs. We are already seeing evidence of positive impact on patients suffering from several degenerative and neurodegenerative diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, autism, Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis. Furthermore, it is only going to get better, once the advance research meets the motivation of governments and capital markets to bring this epoch-making technology to market and help cure many incurable diseases for the first time in human history.

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Regenerative implantable medical devices: An overview

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Objectives: To conduct a bibliometric evaluation and trend prediction of English literature on animal-derived regenerative implantable medical devices based on tissue engineering technology.

Methods: Data identified by a search strategy with eleven combinations of keywords before 1 January, 2014 were downloaded from 8 databases on 25 November, 2014. The study analyzed publication year, journal preference, authors' geographic location and research topics.

Results: Research on animal-derived regenerative implantable medical devices is gradually increasing. The majority of first authors are from colleges or universities. Approximately one third of the papers were the result of cooperation of different institutions. The top five productive countries are USA, China, UK, Germany and Italy. Biomaterials are the main literature source. Bradford's law analysis shows that a core journal area has formed. The active areas of research and future research directions are "scaffold materials", "biocompatibility", "growth factors" and "extracellular matrix".

Conclusion: Research of animal-derived regenerative implantable medical devices has attracted more and more attention from the academia. But most of the research achievements are generated by a few developed countries. Researchers around the world need to complement each other in knowledge and academic resources by communication and cooperation.

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