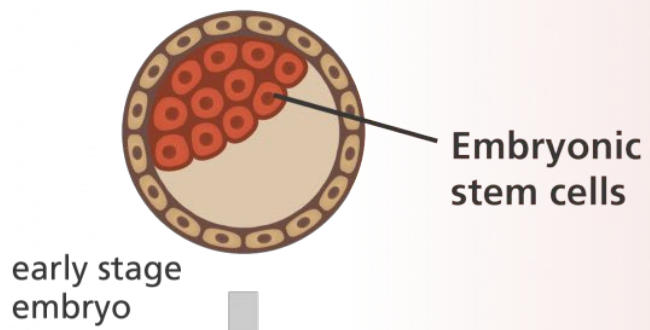
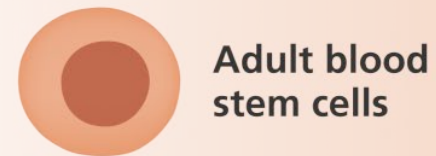
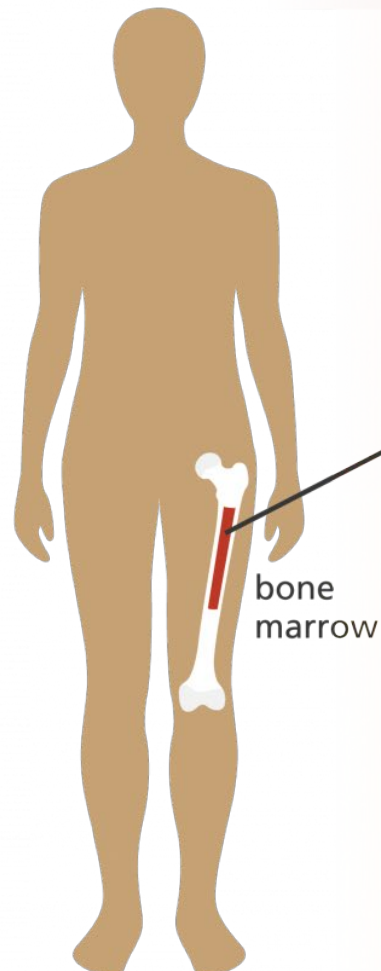
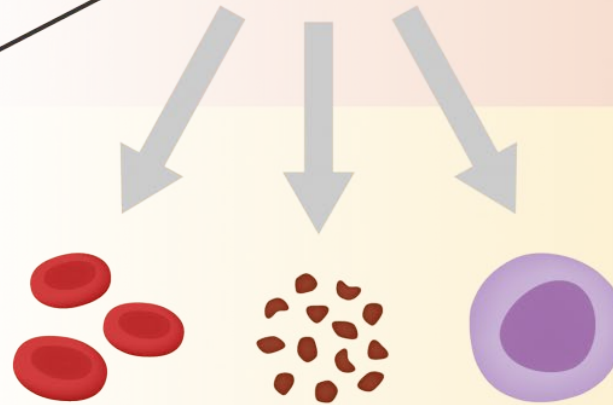




pluripotent



multipotent



specialised

MEDICAL FIRST:

Marrow Successfully Transplanted in Twin



TACOMA TWINS: Barbara Lowry, 7, left, hugged her identical twin, Nancy, at University Hospital yesterday. Bone marrow was taken from Barbara and implanted in

Nancy to combat disease. It was the first successful attempt ever reported. The second-graders are from Tacoma.—Times photo by Paul Thomas.

By HILL WILLIAMS, Medical Editor, The Times

The University Hospital yesterday announced the first successful transplanting of bone marrow from one identical twin to another to combat a disease of the bone marrow.

Only two other such attempts had been reported in medical literature. Neither was successful.

The patient is Nancy Lowry, 7, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lowry, Tacoma.

Nancy's identical twin, Barbara, underwent 50 needle punctures of her lower legs and pelvic bones as doctors withdrew about a tablespoon full of bone marrow.

The marrow, in a salt solution, was dripped gradually into Nancy's bloodstream, as in a blood transfusion. Doctors said the marrow found its way to the bone spaces that are its normal site.

Nancy had been afflicted with aplastic anemia, in which the bone marrow is unable to form red cells,

white cells and platelets, which have to do with clotting of the blood.

Doctors do not know whether the marrow from the healthy twin replaced Nancy's marrow, or whether it only functioned long enough for Nancy to recover and her own bone marrow to resume its function.

"As far as we can tell, Nancy's bone marrow is working normally," a university doctor said. "We expect that it will continue to do so."

Nancy became ill last summer. Her family doctor referred her to the University Hospital. Barbara entered the hospital on August 11,

when the transplanting was performed.

Nancy remained in the hospital until late October. She began a slow recovery within two weeks after the transplanting. She returned to school—the second grade—after Christmas.

University doctors, pointing out that about one third of aplastic anemia victims recover spontaneously, said there is a possibility that Nancy's disease disappeared coincidentally with the transplanting.

"However," a doctor said, "the timing of Nancy's recovery makes it pretty sure that the transplant helped her."

