

## Jaslok offers ray of hope for Parkinson's patients!

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**T**HERE'S a ray of hope for elderly people suffering from Parkinson's disease that impairs motor skills, speech, and other possible functions.

Jaslok Hospital has announced a stem cell treatment and a new drug to cure the disease.

Explaining the Mesenchymal Stem Cell project, Dr Paresh Doshi, HOD, Department of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery,

Jaslok Hospital, said, "The cells found in the patient's own bone marrow will be taken to the lab. Here they will be isolated, multiplied and induced towards neuronal differentiation. At each stage of their maturity, they will be screened for any damage or abnormality. Once they reach a certain number they will be ready to implant in the patients using stereotactic techniques."

As the cells are from the patient's own bone marrow there is no potential of rejection. However, this treatment

methodology yet remains on paper.

This Stem Cell project is along with Reliance Life Sciences where the cells will be cultured.

"The project will be different from others because of the unique techniques that we will be using on human trials. These techniques are based on extensive animal experiments which have yielded positive results," added Dr Doshi.

Also a new drug system, Duodopa to manage the disease was announced by the

medico. This drug is for the treatment of motor fluctuations, and is administered into the small intestine via a tube through an external pump.

After the successful implementation of the said treatment, Jaslok Hospital will be the only centre in India to offer expertise in this treatment.

To create better awareness about the treatment, a support group website,

[www.parkinsonsgroup.com](http://www.parkinsonsgroup.com)

was launched by Dimple Kapadia.



Bollywood actress Dimple Kapadia at the launch of Parkinson's Forum Website, at Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

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