



## Statement on Stem Cell Research

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Stem cell research is considered to be useful to treat different diseases like e.g. Alzheimer's, blood cancer, immunodeficiency disorders, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease. Stem cells have the ability to develop in different cell types like muscle-, nerve-, blood- or cartilage-cells.

One differentiates depending upon origin between **embryonic** and **adult** stem cells.

**Embryonic stem cells** are harvested from embryos, which are destroyed thereby. They can be gained from:

- from surplus embryos produced in the course of in vitro fertilisation not being transferred for a pregnancy
- from embryos particularly produced for this purpose out of egg-cells and sperms
- by cloning
- from aborted embryos.

Human life begins with the fusion of egg and sperm. From this starting point an individual is genetically determined and not to be confounded. Also an embryo produced in vitro must be protected in an unrestricted way. He is not just material being used for research. The New Apostolic Church refuses destruction of conceived human life.

**Adult stem cells** can be gained from birth till death. Sources for adult stem cells are:

- bone marrow
- cord blood
- peripheral blood (by cell separation)
- fat tissue

All therapeutic effects in mankind are effected by adult stem cells, which are gained from borne human beings not destroying embryonic life.

From a Christian and ethical point if view, only research with adult stem cells can be agreed with.

Zurich, 25.01.2005