

# Hope for diabetics



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

news. Jamie Langbein (left), 5, of Brookeville, Md., has life-threatening Type 1 diabetes and has her fingers pricked 10 times a day to check blood sugar. Her family was excited to hear that stem cell therapy might become insulin-producing pancreatic cells.

# Stem cells help fight Crohn's, lupus, MS

By DEBRA SHERMAN  
REUTERS

CHICAGO — Adult stem cells extracted from the blood of two patients with Crohn's disease have been used to rebuild their faulty immune systems, the latest success with a technique being tested at several hospitals.

While scientists think stem cells collected from embryos offer the most potential in research on a variety of illnesses — for which President Bush has proposed allowing limited federal funding — doctors are already using adult stem cells to counteract autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's, multiple sclerosis and lupus.

Doctors at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago said that a 22-year-old female Crohn's patient, whose white blood cells were attacking her digestive system, was doing "phenomenally well" 12½ months after the procedure.

Doctors were so pleased with her progress that they performed the procedure on a second Crohn's patient, a 16-year-old boy, last week.

Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory disease that can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract, afflicts about 50,000 Americans and is most common in adolescents and young adults.

Immunologist Richard Burt of Northwestern, who performed the procedure on the Crohn's patients, said early results were very encouraging.

"This is a patient who had bloody, watery diarrhea about 10 times a day for nine years, with a lot of abdominal pain. Since the procedure, she has had no diarrhea, is eating and is in no pain," Burt said of the first patient.

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president of the Family  
Arch Council, said of  
ion foes who praised the  
dent's decision.  
nnor, who had been  
ting on Bush to hold the  
against federal financing  
uch research, suggested  
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osed to abortions might be  
en more by loyalty to Bush  
by their principles. "If a  
ident Al Gore had come  
with this position," he said,

"I am left to wonder whether or not their reaction would have been entirely different."  
Bush seems aware of the split within his core constituency and eager to try to heal it. In an article Sunday on The New York Times op-ed page, Bush underscores his own devotion to anti-abortion principles — those same principles that his critics on the right accuse his stem-cell decision of violating. "We do not end some lives for the medical benefit of others," he writes. "For me, this is a matter of conviction: a belief that life, including early life, is biologically human, genetically distinct and valuable."