

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS, MO
SATURDAY 320,950

JUN 7 1997

BURRELLE'S

2770

...wae

TU

.a...n

LUPUS

9692A

Stem Cell Process Shows Promise

A process that destroys and then revives a patient's immune system has shown early success in treating a woman with lupus, a disease considered incurable, doctors at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago said Friday.

The process involves taking stem cells, which grow into bone marrow cells, from a patient's blood and purifying them while the patient's immune system is destroyed by intense chemotherapy. The purified cells are then returned so they can blossom again to recreate the immune system.

Lupus makes a victim's immune system turn against its own body. The disease can be controlled with steroids and other drugs, but there is no cure.

The number of Americans with lupus is disputed. The Lupus Foundation of America Inc. estimates more than 1.4 million people have it, but government estimates put the number at less than half that.