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07.04.2018

The Editor,
No. 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2

Dear Sir/ Madam,

RE: STEM CELL THERAPY FOR NEURO DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians has come to know of the presence of an overseas medical team unethically, unscientifically and unlawfully promoting stem cell therapy for Neuro Developmental Disorders including the Autism Spectrum Disorder in Sri Lanka during the first week of April.

Autism Spectrum Disorder consists of social communication deficiencies and interaction impairments together with repetitive and restricted behaviour patterns. Improvement in this condition is assessed by progressive acquisition of these skills by affected children or adults.

The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians wishes to inform the public that only internationally accepted and scientifically proven therapy for Autism is intensive intervention based on communication and behavioural principles that will result in improvement of the above clinical features.

Stem cell therapy for these conditions is only used at the experimental level at research laboratories and is currently NOT recommended to be used for any of the Neuro-Developmental Disorders including Autism Spectrum Disorder. This is simply because positive outcomes from stem cell therapy have not been scientifically proven internationally from several well conducted research studies. Also it is not licensed to be used in Sri Lanka by the medicinal and health control authorities of Sri Lanka.

Therefore the public is hereby warned not to become prey to these parties who extol the virtues of unproven therapies and who are likely to exploit them and their families.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. P.W. Prasad Chathuranga
Secretary