



# Stem cell therapy from old body fat

Simple stem cell therapies are making their way towards the clinic. Imagine you have just had liposuction to get rid of some excess fat. Instead of your old fat being thrown away it turns out that it can help to treat people with illnesses like Crohn's disease [1].

Stem cells from the 'old fat' are very low in the proteins which cause a donor to have a bad immune response. This means they are ideal to be used to treat wounds which are hard to treat. People who have Crohn's disease often get nasty wounds and these stem cells can really help them.

These 'hard-to-treat' wounds affect around 50,000 people in Europe every year. In a clinical trial this treatment, developed by TiGenix in Belgium, improved the chances of healing these wounds by 50% with no side effects [2].

Here is a link to a similar stem cell therapy this time to treat some symptoms of diabetes: <http://www.gsu.edu/2013/12/19/researcher-uses-liposuction-fat-hair-treat-diabetics-wounds/>.

[1] <http://www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk/>

[2] <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22730382-000-donated-liposuction-stem-cells-could-heal-difficult-wounds/>