

Regenerative medicine

Regenerative [medicine](#) is a translational field that combines [tissue engineering](#) and [molecular biology](#) to construct spare organs or help injured or defective tissues to regenerate or restore their normal functions.

Regenerative medicine in neurosurgery

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Goals

The goal of regenerative medicine is to restore function through therapy at levels such as the [gene](#), [cell](#), [tissue](#), or [organ](#). For many [disorders](#), however, regenerative medicine approaches in isolation may not be optimally effective. [Rehabilitation](#) is a promising adjunct therapy given the beneficial impact that physical activity and other training modalities can offer. Accordingly, “regenerative rehabilitation” is an emerging concentration of study, with the specific goal of improving positive functional outcomes by enhancing tissue restoration following injury ¹⁾.

This is particularly important with specific organs such as heart, [central nervous system](#), retina or limbs which possess very limited regenerative capacity. As such, regenerative medicine has received peculiar attention in the last decade. In this regard, [Wnt signaling pathway](#) has been subject to intensive research, since it plays many essential roles in the regulation of the progenitor cell fate, developmental decisions, proliferation during embryonic development, and adult tissue homeostasis.

Majidinia et al. briefly introduce [Wnt signaling pathway](#) and discuss how it integrally contributes to both stem and cancer stem cell maintenance. Finally, they summarize the current understanding of the role of Wnt/ β -catenin signaling in the development and regeneration of heart, lung, liver, bone, and cartilage ²⁾.

¹⁾

Ross HH, Ambrosio F, Trumbower RD, Reier PJ, Behrman AL, Wolf SL. Neural Stem Cell Therapy and

Rehabilitation in the Central Nervous System: Emerging Partnerships. Phys Ther. 2016 May;96(5):734-42. doi: 10.2522/ptj.20150063. Epub 2016 Feb 4. Review. PubMed PMID: 26847015.
2)
Majidinia M, Aghazadeh J, Jahanban-Esfahlani R, Yousefi B. The roles of Wnt/ β -catenin pathway in tissue development and regenerative medicine. J Cell Physiol. 2017 Nov 18. doi: 10.1002/jcp.26265. [Epub ahead of print] Review. PubMed PMID: 29150936.

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