



Breakthrough Gives Hope For Cure To MS

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Damien Pearse, Sky News Online

Multiple sclerosis researchers have made an important breakthrough sparking hope of a cure for the disease.



Scientists have discovered that people with MS are more than twice as likely to have abnormal blood flow in the neck.

The **University of Buffalo** study in New York opens the possibility of identifying a treatment for the degenerative condition.

There is already evidence that sufferers are benefiting from surgery which unblocks veins in the neck.

Sky's health correspondent, Thomas Moore, described the breakthrough as "tantalising evidence".

"This could change the way we view multiple sclerosis," he said.

The treatment is not yet available in this country but Martin Jones travelled to Poland for surgery.

"These are only early days, but it's looking good so far," he said.

"It's made a large difference to my symptoms.

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MS sufferer Martin Jones

The American study backs initial study findings in Italy.

More than 55% of MS patients participating in the Buffalo research were found to have the neck abnormality, **a condition called chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency, or CCSVI.**

Robert Zivadinov, associate professor of neurology and principal investigator on the study, said he was "cautiously optimistic and excited" about the results.

Dr Doug Brown, Biomedical Research Manager at the MS Society, said: "These results are intriguing but it is important to remember that although people with MS may show evidence of CCSVI in screening studies, there's no proof as yet that this phenomenon is a cause of MS, nor that treating it would have an effect on MS.

"The next step is to determine what this actually means for MS and an investigation into whether there's any potential therapeutic benefit from treatment will be pivotal for this novel theory."

MS is the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults, with 100,000 sufferers in the UK.

Researchers believe it is the result of damage to myelin - a protective sheath surrounding nerve fibres of the central nervous system.

When myelin is damaged, this interferes with messages between the brain and other parts of the body.

COMMENTS TO THE STORY

Well done Martin for finding out other options, As a Multiple Sclerosis sufferer myself (diagnosed age 22) and not in a wheelchair, I was diagnosed 2001 and have worked full time since and still do, I have just had my first anniversary of taking medication Rebif that I inject 3 times a week, personally yes I am getting fed up with feeling like a pin cushion but if it keeps more symptoms at bay then I will continue. I would love to have the option to have surgery to get rid of my coldness that I have in both legs and freezing feet all time. How or who would I speak to regarding this.

Posted By :S.Bloomfield [Report This](#)

I have to agree with John Jones please report the facts regarding this so called cure. It is a treatment for some types of MS and has been shown to be successful, the treatment of prof Zamboni's wife for example but to raise the hopes of all MS sufferers is misleading.

This treatment is not available to those with the aggressive form of the disease which was devastating news to my wife who had raised hopes and expectations on hearing that a "cure" was available. Responsible reporting is required.

Posted By :sid [Report This](#)

If these findings are correct then this is wonderful news indeed for people with MS, but it begs the question as to why nobody has "discovered" this treatment before. Call me a cynic, but could it be anything to do with drug company profits and suppression of research for financial gain? If this is a potential cure it should be rolled out quickly and data gathered to test its efficacy, it is after all a simple enough procedure, not without its risks though, but if it brings relief I'm sure many will accept that risk over and above dying a painful and agonising death.

Posted By :ALLAN [Report This](#)

I find this story like this has meant there is a light at the end of this dark and long tunnel in my fight against MS

when reading the comment about the MS society i find them the least helpful people - i believe that they are just ageist idiots as i was diagnosed at 14, currently at 27 they have shown no interest in helping me when i have come up against problems with my MS

i hope for all our sakes who have MS that s cure shall be found sooner rather than later

Posted By :alison snelling [Report This](#)

My wife was an M.S. sufferer but had the very aggressive strain of M.S. She was diagnosed May 1987 and died November 1994 not with M.S. but with all the complications that go with this awful disease. Having read the comments regarding Vitamin D i can see some sense in the findings but as for the Sun being helpful i have to strongly disagree. All the people i know and have known with M.S. heat is one of the worse things for the disease it just helps it progress faster, please don't get peoples hopes up until there is good reason to do so. Look forward to a reply.

Posted By :John Leslie Jones [Report This](#)

For the last 15 years I've watched my mum's health deteriorate, first with her diagnosed with relapsing/remitting MS and now secondary progressive. None of the drugs she has been put on have seemed to do anything to improve her condition, and most have had serious side-effects.

For the last 4 months or so I've been reading up on CCSVI and initially my opinion was like

that of James above that this was yet another snake oil but reading up on it and reading the stories of patients who have had the procedure this looks very promising. (read the ThisIsMs.com forum on CCSVI).

The question I have is this. If these people have blocked veins, shouldn't they be treated regardless of whether it is linked to MS?

Posted By :Mike Smith [Report This](#)

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