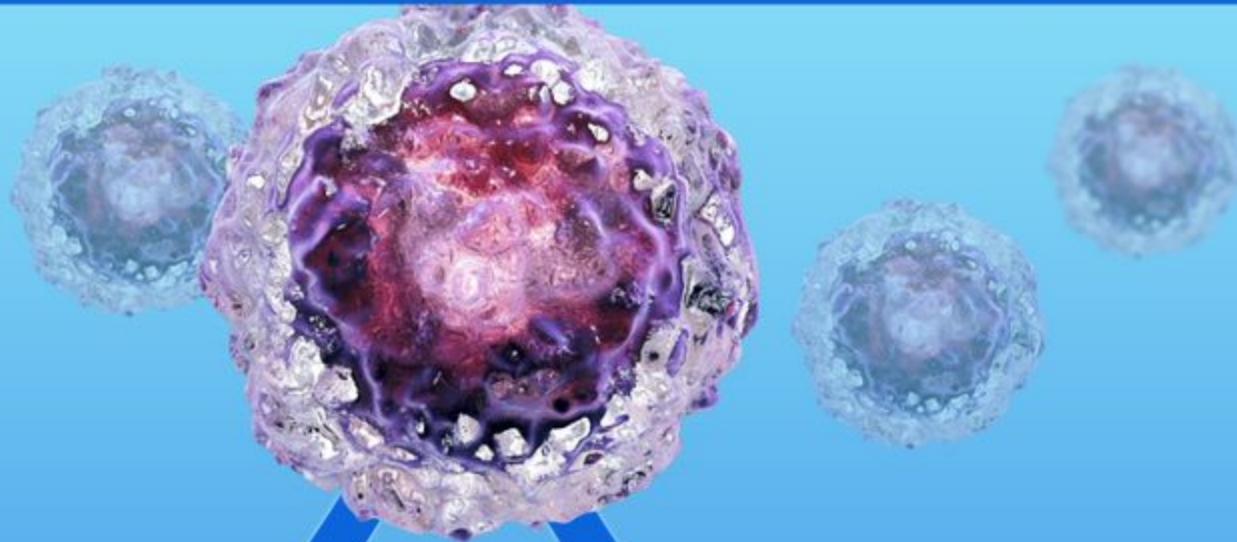


SMOKING AND THERAPEUTIC STEM CELLS



VA researchers want to learn if smoking can potentially affect the outcome of stem cell therapy. In an ongoing study, they are injecting stem cells into 10 mice that have been exposed to nicotine, as well as 10 that haven't, with the intention of treating peripheral artery disease, which obstructs blood vessels in the arms and legs. The researchers believe the nicotine will prevent the leg with reduced blood flow from using the stem cells to create new blood vessels.



No exposure to nicotine



exposed to nicotine

