

# Stem Cells

Two types:

1. **Embryonic** (blastocyst stage)
2. **Adult**

Two capacities:

1. **Totipotent**
2. **Pluripotent**

Some Uses / Potential Applications:

Tissue generation

Body organ construction

Neurological (spinal cord) therapy

Issue: What is **moral (and legal) status** of embryo (zygote – blastocyst) / fetus?

Thus, the Issue: the destruction of embryo / fetus

1. It is Ethically Objectionable to destroy embryo
  - 1) Development of technology that does not destroy embryo
  - 2) Development of technology that transforms body cells into stem cells
  - 3) Not use embryonic cells at all
2. It is Ethically Unobjectionable to destroy embryo

When does '**moral personhood**' (= constituting one as a bearer of rights, toward whom others have duties) begin?

1. Conception (recent-'ideological' view)
2. Implantation
3. Beating heart
4. Recognizable human form
5. Sentient responsiveness to environment
6. 'quickening'
7. 'viability'
8. Birth (historical-'common sense' view)
9. Some point after birth?

**Paradigm Case approach to 'personhood'?** (Necessity of *phronesis*?)

Is the embryo / fetus a 'potential person' or a 'person with potential'?