



OrthoIndy vs. Stem Cell Clinics

You may have heard about the use of “stem cell” therapies to treat orthopedic conditions. Many people are looking for alternatives to joint replacement surgery and believe “stem cell” therapies can help.

OrthoIndy doctors have been at the forefront of treatment with orthobiologics for orthopedic injuries and conditions. When non-surgical treatments aren’t effective, OrthoIndy physicians may prescribe platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injections and orthobiologic therapies.

Orthobiologic treatments may help relieve pain, restore function and potentially help delay major surgery, like joint replacement surgery.

It’s important to note that the term “stem cells” is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). You should be leery of medical practices that claim they do stem cell injections.

According to the FDA, “Stem cell therapies may offer the potential to treat diseases or conditions for which few treatments exist. Sometimes called the body’s ‘master cells,’ stem cells are the cells that develop into blood, brain, bones, and all of the body’s organs. The cells have the potential to repair, restore, replace, and regenerate cells, and could possibly be used to treat many medical conditions and diseases.” However, they are NOT allowed for use outside of an FDA approved scientific study.

The FDA is concerned that individuals may be duped into spending significant amounts of money on treatments that are illegal and potentially harmful. Therefore, the FDA is increasing oversight and enforcement of stem cell clinics to protect individuals from potentially harmful products.



	OrthoIndy OrthoBiologics Program	Stem Cell Clinics
Providers	<p>Orthopedic specialists are experts in the musculoskeletal system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthopedic Surgeons • Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians (Physiatrists) • Sports Medicine Physicians 	<p>Injection clinics from providers that do not have a specialty or advanced training in the musculoskeletal system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34% are not physicians¹ • Orthopedics is the #1 area that stem cell clinics market to patients² • Approximately 50% that advertise stem cell treatments do not have one physician with formal training matching the condition claimed to treat¹ • Unlicensed stem cell interventions pose risks³ • Clinicians practicing beyond their scope of training could increase risks to patients⁴
FDA Clearance	OrthoIndy adheres to the recommendations of the Biologic Association.	Claim they use stem cell therapies, which are not FDA cleared
Compliant Verbiage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant verbiage according to the label and FDA guidance documents • Strong scientific and clinical evidence 	<p>May make unverified claims about stem cells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates pain • Regenerates tissue
Evidence	Supported by scientific evidence	Unproven treatments may present serious health, personal and financial considerations
Cost to the Patient	<p>Therapies are between \$500 to \$2600.</p> <p><u>Download our Pricing Sheet</u></p>	<p>Approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 per treatment (many receiving more than one treatment)</p> <p>International: \$20,000 to \$100,000 (targeting Americans)</p>

Sources:

1. Fu W et al. Characteristics and Scope of Training of Clinicians Participating in the US Direct-to-Consumer Marketplace for Unproven Stem Cell Interventions. JAMA. June 25, 2019 Volume 321, Number 24.
2. Turner L, Knoepfler P. Selling stem cells in the USA: assessing the direct-to-consumer industry. Cell Stem Cell. 2016;19(2):154-157.
3. Bauer G, Elsallab M, Abou-El-Enein M. Concise review: a comprehensive analysis of reported adverse events in patients receiving unproven stem cell-based interventions. Stem Cells Transl Med. 2018;7(9):676-685. doi:10.1002/sctm.17-0282
4. Federation of State Medical Boards. Position statement on practice drift. <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/position-statement-onpractice-drift.pdf>. Published April 2016. Accessed March 23, 2019.

Orthobiologics Resources

Our team of experienced physicians has helped thousands of people suffering from joint pain regain mobility and get back to living active lives. Orthobiologics provide cutting-edge treatments that may help restore function and potentially help avoid or delay major surgery. **Make an appointment** and let OrthoIndy's team of experts help you get normal back, whatever your normal looks like.

