Scientists say cure for baldness could be close

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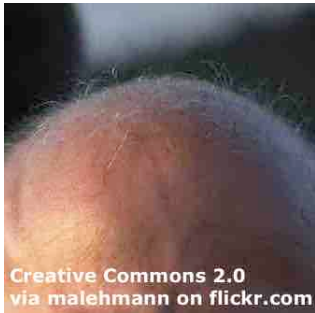
Help may soon be at hand for those who are losing or have lost their hair. A team of Japanese scientists has discovered stem cells that are vital in the hair regeneration process. This is promising news for the millions of people worldwide who suffer from baldness. A cure has eluded scientists for decades, despite extensive research and significant investment in research. The scientists are now embarking on clinical research and laboratory trials. They hope to adapt the stem cells to finally create a therapy for hair loss. Baldness predominantly affects men. By the age of 35, around two-thirds of men will experience some degree of hair loss. By the age of 50, up to 85 per cent will experience significantly thinning hair.

The scientists took fur cells from mice and cultured them in the lab. They observed that hair growth was a cyclical process within the follicle. They analysed the stem cells and used 220 combinations of chemicals to make the hair regrow naturally. Lead scientist Takashi Tsuji said: "Our culture system establishes a method for cyclical regeneration of hair follicles from hair follicle stem cells and will help make hair follicle regeneration therapy a reality in the near future." He added: "Losing hair is not life-threatening, but it adversely affects the quality of life." Sam Baker, a 52-year-old bank worker, hopes the therapy works. He said: "Having a full head of hair again will make me look ten years younger".

Sources:
japantimes.co.jp / bgr.com / interestingengineering.com

Writing

It would be better if we were all bald. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

help / losing hair / scientists / stem cells / research / laboratory / baldness / men / fur / cyclical / follicle / combinations / therapy / life-threatening / quality of life

True / False

a)   The article says hair on people's hands could be put on head. T / F

b)   The article says scientists have promised millions of bald people. T / F

c)   The article says scientists have not found a cure for centuries. T / F

d)   Up to 85% of men will have thinned hair before they are 50. T / F

e)   Scientists experimented on the fur of mice. T / F

f)   A scientist wants to make a hair loss therapy in the far future. T / F

g)   A scientist said hair loss is not life-threatening. T / F

h)   A banker wants hair so he can look 10 years younger   T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**at hand**	a.	mixes
2.	**vital**	b.	starting
3.	**eluded**	c.	level
4.	**embarking on**	d.	essential
5.	**degree**	e.	actuality
6.	**observed**	f.	about to happen
7.	**combinations**	g.	treatment
8.	**therapy**	h.	negatively
9.	**reality**	i.	evaded
10.	**adversely**	j.	noticed

Discussion – Student A

a)   What do you think of baldness?

b)   Why do we need hair?

c)   What are the advantages of being bald?

d)   What do you think of your hair?

e)   How would you feel about being bald?

f)   What do you think of bald people?

g)   How important is a cure for baldness?

h)   What advice do you have for people who are going bald?

Phrase Match

1. Help may soon
2. discovered stem cells that
3. embarking
4. Baldness predominantly
5. significantly thinning
6. The scientists took fur
7. hair growth was a cyclical
8. a reality in the near
9. Losing hair is not life-
10. Having a full

a. affects men
b. on clinical research
c. hair
d. head of hair
e. process
f. be at hand
g. threatening
h. cells from mice
i. are vital
j. future

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What do you do to look after your hair?
c) What can people do if they are going bald?
d) What do you know about the process of hair growth?
e) How might going bald affect people's mental health?
f) What do you think of bald women?
g) How attractive is it to be bald?
h) What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Spelling

1. stem cells that are <u>vaitl</u>
2. A cure has <u>delude</u> scientists
3. despite <u>xetnivese</u> research
4. <u>mkbaengir</u> on clinical research
5. Baldness <u>mditrplnonaye</u> affects men
6. <u>tsinnyciiafgl</u> thinning hair
7. <u>ultecurd</u> them in the lab
8. hair growth was a <u>acyclcil</u> process
9. hair <u>oillfecl</u>
10. <u>irteaoeegrnn</u> therapy
11. Losing hair is not life-<u>rteagnenthi</u>
12. it <u>salevdrey</u> affects the quality of life

Role Play

Role A – Hair Dryer
You think a hair dyer is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): shampoo, hair dye or hair spray.

Role B – Shampoo
You think shampoo is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a hair dyer, hair dye or hair spray.

Role C – Hair Dye
You think hair dye is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): shampoo, a hair dyer or hair spray.

Role D – Hair Spray
You think hair spray is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): shampoo, hair dye or a hair dyer.

Speaking – Hair Products

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- hair spray
- hair dye
- hair
- hair net
- hair dryer
- hair grip
- hair band
- shampoo

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. a	8. g	9. e	10. h

Answers – True False

a F	b F	c F	d T	e T	f F	g T	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.