



angioblast
systems

FIRST TWO PATIENTS IN HEART ATTACK CLINIC STUDY SAFELY IMPLANTED WITH ADULT STEM CELLS

6 February 2006: Mesoblast Limited (ASX:MSB) today announced that adult stem cells developed using the company's proprietary technology had been safely implanted in the first two patients taking part in clinical trials.

Principal Investigator from the Hunter Medical Research Institute, Interventional Cardiologist Dr Suku Thambar, said today that the procedure, performed under local anaesthetic, had gone well for both patients.

"The procedure went well and both patients have been discharged from hospital. "We will closely monitor the patients' progress and look forward to seeing evidence of clinical improvement in a short period of time," Dr Thambar said.

Mesoblast Founder and Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Silviu Itescu, said today he was delighted that the implantation of the adult stem cells had proceeded safely.

"Our challenge is to develop a safe and effective treatment for a broad range of degenerative diseases.

"Many millions of people worldwide are affected by congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease. There are very few options available to treat these conditions including pharmaceuticals, surgery, cardiac replacement and mechanical assistance - these do not result in cardiac regeneration, are generally extremely expensive and highly invasive.

"Mesoblast is deeply committed to protecting the safety, well being and confidentiality of the patients involved. We will keep the market appropriately informed on a timely basis," Professor Itescu said.

The world-first trial being undertaken at The John Hunter Hospital in New South Wales is one of two currently being conducted in Australia to test the safety of Mesoblast's proprietary adult stem cell technology in humans.

The timing of patient recruitment and conduct of these trials is at the discretion of the medical team and hospital.

The trial was approved by The Hunter Area Research Ethics Committee.