

## ***Why Can't We Use Our Own Stem Cells to Heal Our Bodies?***

by Berkley Bedell, Foundation for Alternative and Integrative Medicine ([www.faim.org](http://www.faim.org))

### **Parkinson's Disease**

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's disease.<sup>1</sup> As many as 1 million Americans suffer from Parkinson's disease.<sup>2</sup> With 50,000 new cases identified each year.<sup>3</sup>

Parkinson's disease costs our society at least \$25 billion annually.<sup>4</sup> Additional costs such as rehabilitation and home care can run as high as \$150,000 per patient, per year.<sup>5</sup>

Autologous adult stem cell (AASC) therapy for Parkinson's is prevalent in several countries. Peru offers a treatment for \$6000 with astounding results. Patients go from stages of being emotionally non-responsive and having difficulty walking to being engaged and even jogging in a short time following treatment. Videos of these cases are available on line.<sup>6</sup>

The cost to treat 1 million Parkinson's patients is \$6 billion using AASC therapy. If 20% of the patients received AASC therapy the annual cost savings calculated as a 9 year average (2012-2020) would be \$17 billion; if 50% of the patients received AASC the annual savings would be \$24 billion; and if 100% of the patients received AASC therapy the cost savings would be \$29 billion annually. With resolution using AASC therapy the patient would not require the additional expense of rehabilitation, home health care, and future therapy, which can be very costly as noted above. (Calculated using a conventional care cost of \$25,000 annually (\$25 billion for 1 million patients) and an AASC cost of \$6000 with 50,000 new diagnoses per year and calculating in for a 70% success rate of AASC)

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<sup>1</sup> National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. "[Parkinson's Disease: Challenges, progress, and promise](#)". Oct-2004.

<sup>2</sup> Parkinson's Disease Foundation. "[Ten Frequently-Asked Questions about Parkinson's Disease](#)".

<sup>3</sup> <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/parkinson-disease>

<sup>4</sup> Parkinson's Action Network. "[About Parkinson's Disease](#)".

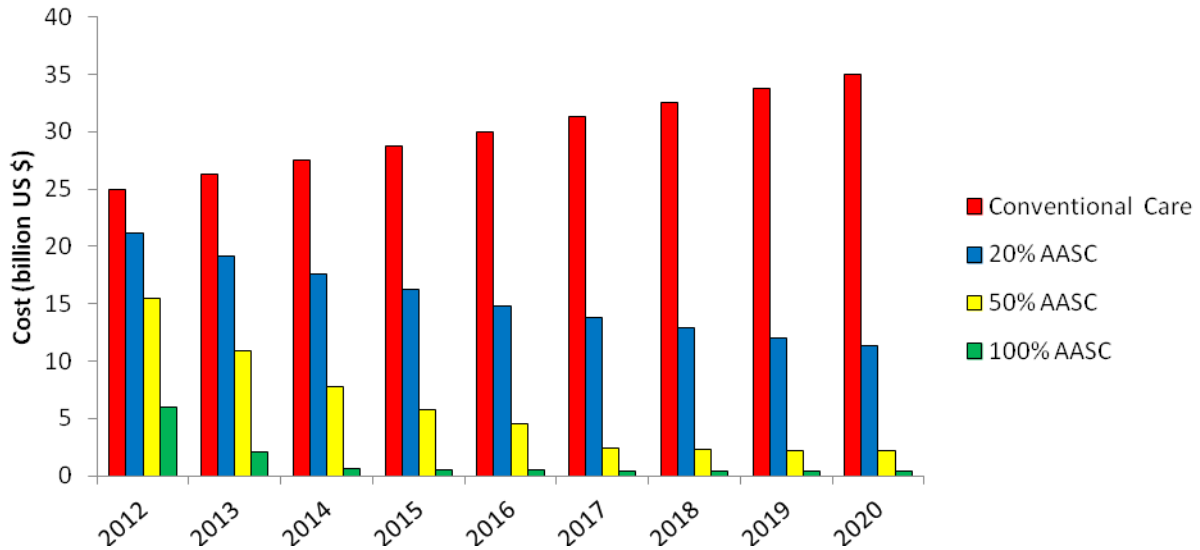
<sup>5</sup> Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine. "[Parkinson's Disease Information](#)"

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.faim.org/stemcell/brazziniinstituteasctvideos.html>

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**Cost of Parkinson's Disease**



Year	Conventional Care	20% receiving AASC	50% receiving AASC	100% receiving AASC
2012	25	21	16	6
2013	26	19	11	2
2014	28	18	8	1
2015	29	16	6	1
2016	30	15	5	0
2017	31	14	2	0
2018	33	13	2	0
2019	34	12	2	0
2020	35	11	2	0
<b>total cost</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>12</b>

\*all numbers in billion dollars

Calculated: conventional care \$25,000 per patient

AASC treatment \$6,000 per patient

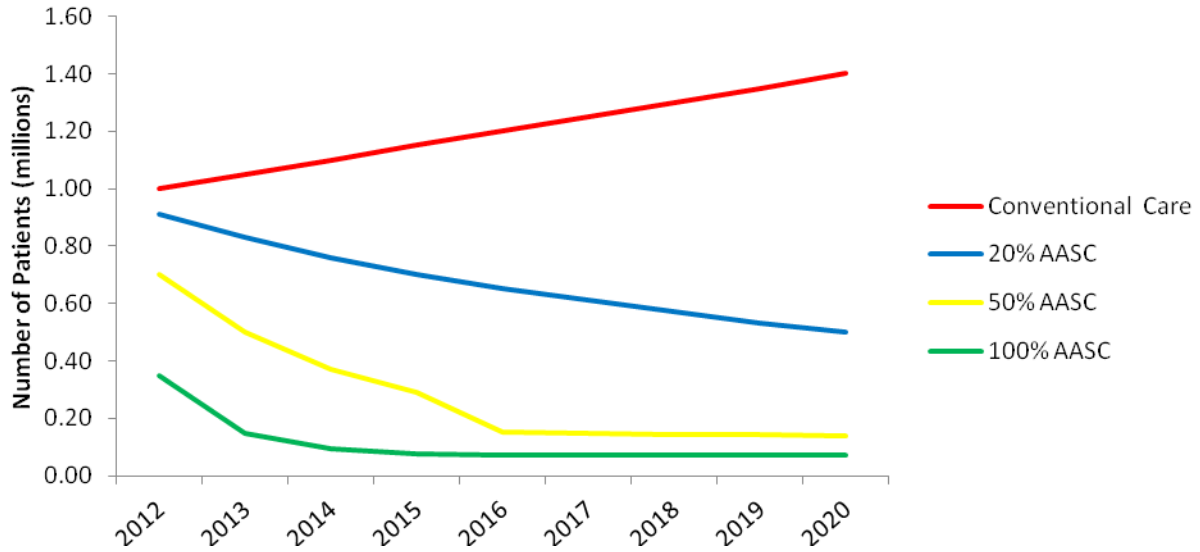
AASC success rate: 70%

Increase of 50,000 cases per year

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**# of Parkinson's Patients**



Year	Conventional Care	20% receiving AASC	50% receiving AASC	100% receiving AASC
2012	1.00	0.91	0.70	0.35
2013	1.05	0.83	0.50	0.15
2014	1.10	0.76	0.37	0.10
2015	1.15	0.70	0.29	0.08
2016	1.20	0.65	0.15	0.07
2017	1.25	0.61	0.15	0.07
2018	1.30	0.57	0.15	0.07
2019	1.35	0.53	0.14	0.07
2020	1.40	0.50	0.14	0.07

\*all numbers in millions of patients

AASC success rate of 70%