

World's first clinical study begun in Kobe to transplant allogeneic iPS cell-derived retinal sheet for retinitis pigmentosa

The Kobe City Eye Hospital announced in June this year that the hospital had obtained approval from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for a clinical research plan to make iPS cell-derived neuroretinal sheets of photoreceptor cells which sense light, and to transplant the sheet to patients with an intractable eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa. There are around 1.5 million patients with retinitis pigmentosa worldwide, and there is no cure for the disease at the present. The world's first transplant surgery (clinical study) will be conducted from now on.

*This clinical study has limited the number of subjects to receive the surgery and will not invite public participation.

【Outline of the clinical study】

(1) Description

This is the world's first clinical study in which a retinal sheet made of allogeneic iPS cells is transplanted under the retina of a patient with retinitis pigmentosa. The purpose of this clinical study is to confirm the safety of the neuroretinal sheet as the first step to the goal of transplanting a retinal sheet, engrafting retinal tissues, and recovering visual function.

(2) Study institution

Kobe City Eye Hospital <http://www.kobeeyecenter.jp/english/>

