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# Living Cell Tumbles 89% On NTCell Parkinson's Results

Living Cell tumbled as much as 88.8 percent to 2.3 cents on news there was no statistical significance for the efficacy of its NTCell treatment for Parkinson's disease.

Living Cell said that three of the four primary endpoints were met in its phase IIb trial, with no product or procedure adverse events and no evidence of xenogeneic infection in patients and their partners.

The company said that at 26 weeks post-implant, there was "not a statistically significant difference between the groups who received the encapsulated pig choroid plexus brain cell NTCell and the patients who had sham surgery, as measured by the change in the unified Parkinson's disease rating scale (UPDRS).

Living Cell said the study was designed to confirm the most effective dose of NTCell, define any placebo component of the response and identify the initial target Parkinson's disease patient sub-group.

The company said that the study consisted of three groups of six patients, with two patients from each group having sham surgery with no NTCell implanted, while the active cohorts received 40 microcapsules, 80 microcapsules and 120 microcapsules of NTCell implanted on each side of the brain.

Living Cell said that the trial protocol allowed for the controls to receive treatment but the data safety monitoring board had recommended that no treatment be given to the control patients.

Auckland City Hospital principal investigator Dr Barry Snow said “the next step is to analyse the data in depth and continue to monitor patients in accord with the study extension protocol, particularly for the efficacy movements at longer time points”.

Living Cell chief executive officer Dr Ken Taylor said the study was “very good … from a safety viewpoint, we are disappointed that the efficacy primary endpoint has not been met”.

“It is encouraging that some efficacy data is positive and that the treatment was well tolerated and safe,” Dr Taylor said.

“More data analysis and input from our advisors is required but at this time we cannot proceed with a regulatory application,” Dr Taylor said.

Dr Taylor told an investor conference call that the company would be holding a strategy meeting and its annual general meeting next week and would discuss future directions at that time.

Dr Taylor said that with $5 million in cash the company was in a good position to progress its pericytes and neuroscience assets (BD: Nov 7, 2017).

In 2013, Living Cell implanted four patients in a phase I/II trial of NTCell for Parkinson’s disease, later reporting that at 42 weeks post-implant, NTCell “stopped the progression of Parkinson’s disease” and was safe and effective at 58 weeks with all patients showing statistically significant improvement (BD: Sep 20, 2013; Oct 27, 2015; Jan 27, 2016).

The company began the 18-patient, phase IIb trial of NTCell in 2016 (BD: Mar 24, 2016).

Living Cell closed down 16.5 cents or 80.5 percent at four cents with 86.95 million shares traded.