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AMNIOFIX IN REFRACTORY KNEE PAIN

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The amniotic membrane is a constituent of placental tissue that protects and supports the fetus in utero. It is composed of extracellular matrix components such as collagen, fibronectin and laminin, contains many different growth factors and cytokines. The healing properties of amniotic tissue were first identified in 1910 where it was discovered that they help in healing refractory stalled wounds. However this immunologically privileged structure was lost to scientific community for close to 90 years until technological advances led to its being “rediscovered” in 2000. Author reporting his retrospective case series of 40 patients of variable age group who had failed all conservative treatment options including all other injections like steroids and viscosupplementation and were reluctant for surgery. Patients were injected with AmnioFix injection and were followed at four weeks and eight weeks and six months and contacted at one year. Failure rate was defined as improvement of <50% in VAS scale. 65% patients reported improvement in there VAS pain levels of more than 60% and 25% reported improvements of 50% and 10% did not have any improvement. The majority group above reported improvement in their walking distance. Based on above failure rate was 10-25% which was defined as need of other treatments/surgery. This retrospective review of cases suggests that AmnioFix can be used in treatment of refractory arthritic knee pain. To the best of our knowledge this is a second follow up series in English Literature elucidating the benefits of AmnioFix in osteoarthritis. As technology advances and price become affordable the research world will hear more about this product.