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Patient Care + Research + Clinical Trials

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Islet cell transplant studies

A very exciting study completed recruitment 2025-July-15: **Vertex 880** Islet Cell Transplant study at Vancouver General Hospital with Dr. Breay Paty as Principal Investigator. In this tremendously exciting study 10 of 12 subjects who received the Islet cell transplant required no insulin at the 12 month mark. Two BCDiabetes subjects have received this transplant (one in the original 12 who has been off insulin for > 3 years, and another in Sept 2025 whose insulin dose is markedly reduced). Immunosuppression is required life-long. See published paper here. Note, the same study continues to recruit in Edmonton, contact the coordinator Saira Qureshi, Clinical Islet Transplant Program, University of Alberta, saira@ualberta.ca T 780-492-7942

Only one study is actively recruiting in BC: another **Vertex 880** study, using the same cell line described in the successful study above, but for individuals with type 1 diabetes who have undergone a kidney transplant. For more information contact Dr. Breay Paty, Dr. Ahsen Chaudry or the study coordinator Levina Ira ph 604 875 4111 ex 62178

BCDiabetes has been in early discussion with Sana Pharmaceuticals about the tremendously exciting work published 2025-Aug-4 by Per-Ola Carlsson's group in Uppsala, Sweden. The Carlson group showed functional survival of allogeneic human beta cells without immunosuppression transplanted into the forearm of a 42 year old man living with Type 1 for 37 years. Sana's cell line was genetically engineered to not incite an immune response and is blood group O Negative, meaning that blood type-matching of potential recipients will not be necessary.

Recent reports from China have suggested that harvested cells from individuals with Type 1 diabetes which were programmed into pluri-potential stem cells then differentiated into Islet cells and implanted under the abdominal wall could eliminate the need for insulin: for more see https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03129-3 published 2024-Sep-26.

For a general introduction to Islet cell transplantation see this 21 minute "The Cure" youtube recorded by me in 2020 for a Diabetes Canada symposium: from timestamp 9'40" to 16'12".

Short URL = https://bit.ly/ICTCanada