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Translation of News In English

Spinal cord injury is not incurable declares the representative of the Institute of Spinal Cord Injury Iceland. They have launched a campaign to raise the attention of the World Health Organization WHO to the matter of spinal cord injury with the hope that an organized search for cure will be started.

“Let’s imagine that two men in similar age arrive today at this hospital. One is diagnosed with cancer; the other has spinal cord damage after an accident. Of course, both receive the best possible treatment available. Everything is done to cure the cancer patient but the patient with spinal cord injury is treated with rehabilitation. The Institute of Spinal Cord Injury Iceland is convinced that it is time for a policy change and advocates for a search for cure.”

Prof. Harry S. Goldsmith: “When patients have a spinal cord injury they stabilize the vertebra column, the bones in the neck but most of the time nobody goes even near the spinal cord and I think something must be done directly to the spinal cord if we are going to see any improvement in the future.”

At this hospital in India experimental treatment has recently been done on eight people with spinal cord injury. The surgery was done within two weeks from the accident and although short time has passed they show success.

Dr. Himanshu Bansal: “The earlier the patient comes to the hospital the patient can be treated with some newer promising drugs, decompression, spinal stabilization and as I just told you with omental transposition. The omental transposition reduces scar formation and has yielded very good results in all experimental treatments done so far. “

The Institute of Spinal Cord Injury Iceland sponsored the experimental treatment and aims for spinal cord injury to be put on the agenda of the World Health Organization. Prospect is the appointment of an expert committee by the World Health Organization to review all traditional and experimental treatments known today and combine the knowledge to increase the understanding and likelihood of finding a cure.

Auður Guðjónsdóttir: “The World Health Organization defines spinal cord injury as an orphan disease for which nobody is interested in finding a cure for the lack of incentives, the lack of money. Nobody can make money out of it. Because of this the global community has to work together in the search for cure of spinal cord injury and other diseases where the private market doesn’t profit from the cure.”

The Institute of Spinal Cord Injury Iceland has now started a campaign in all Nordic countries and urges the public to sign a petition which is planned to be handed over to the World Health Organization early next year. The petition is to be found on the Institutes website www.isci.is.