



NAPA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Advancing research and discovering new treatments to improve movement and function

"Why "Useless" Surgery is Still Popular

The New York Times

August 4, 2016

At the Napa Medical Research Foundation, we recognize the need for improved methodologies in the treatment of injuries like tears of the meniscus, and other common orthopedic conditions. Our goal is to discover less invasive treatments that are equally, if not more, effective and to ensure these advancements are more broadly known throughout the medical community.

With respect to the New York Times article, *Why "Useless" Surgery is Still Popular*, the Director of Research, Dr. Marko Bodor, shares these comments:

"Many athletes, from young Olympians to seniors, may sustain a tear of the meniscus at some point in their life. For years, the urge has been to "do something about it right away" and arthroscopic surgery has traditionally been the answer with the goal of trimming away a loose piece. More recently, the aim has been to repair the meniscus when possible, but the meniscus, which has a poor blood supply, despite being sutured together does not bond and the operation is not successful.

The recent article in the New York Times sheds light on current outcomes for meniscus surgery and adds to the importance of researching ways to get the meniscus to bond using cellular techniques, such as platelet-rich plasma or bone marrow aspirate concentrate injections as primary ways of attempting healing or in conjunction with sutures."

By supporting Dr. Bodor's investigations into the use of leading edge treatments, such as platelet rich plasma and stem cells (bone marrow aspirate concentrate), the NMRF is helping to advance the broad acceptance of ultra-minimally invasive medical procedures.