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(54) Title: PLATELETS FROM STEM CELLS

(57) Abstract: Human embryonic stem cells are induced to differentiate first into the hematopoietic lineage and then into megakaryocytes, the cells which generate platelets. The proper in vitro culture of megakaryocytes results in the production and shed of platelets. This makes possible, for the first time, the *in vitro* production of a human blood factor needed by many patients.