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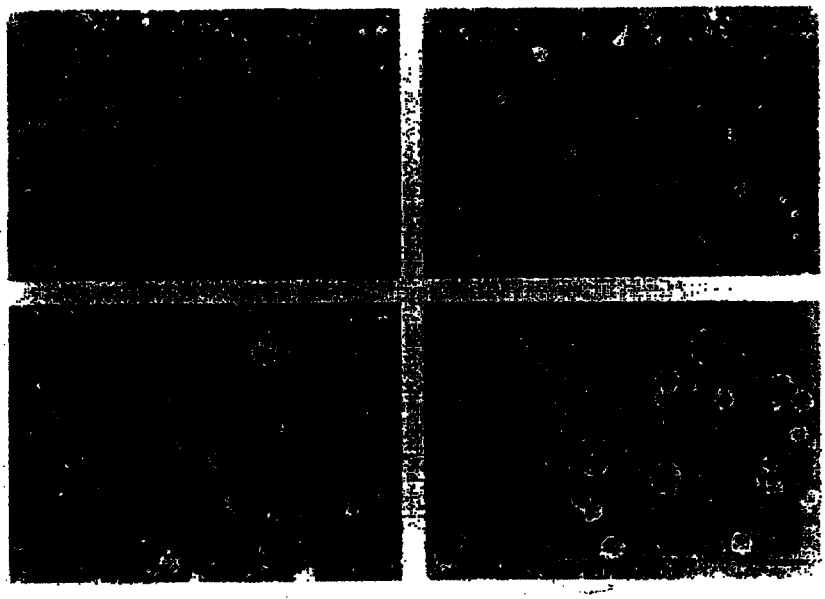
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(57) Abstract

Proliferating or proliferated multipotent neural stem cells and their progeny are used to produce a CNS model system for the study of neural development and function and for determining the CNS effects of novel therapeutic and other biological agents. The neural stem cells are obtained from small amounts of either normal or diseased CNS tissue from pre- and post natal individuals. The invention allows for large amounts of tissue, which may be clonally derived to limit variability, to be generated from a relatively small amount of CNS tissue. The invention describes a CNS model system whereby the differentiated progeny of the neural stem cells include multiple types of CNS cells, including neurons, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. Screening for the effects of neurological or other biological agents and the analysis of gene expression in the multipotent neural stem cells and in the stem-cell derived progeny of a normal or a diseased donor may be undertaken using this model system.