What is claimed is:

1. Use of a mammalian embryonic kidney cell comprising a gene encoding a protein having intervertebral disc regenerating function in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or retarding degeneration of intervertebral disc at an intervertebral disc defect site of a mammal, wherein said medicament is to be injected into the intervertebral disc defect site, wherein said gene belongs to TGF-β superfamily.

2. Use of a mammalian embryonic kidney cell comprising a gene encoding a protein having intervertebral disc regenerating function in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or retarding degeneration of intervertebral disc at an intervertebral disc defect site of a mammal, wherein said medicament is to be transplanted into the intervertebral disc defect site, wherein said gene belongs to TGF-β superfamily.

3. The use according to claims 1 and 2, wherein said gene encodes TGF-β1.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the mammalian cell is allogeneic relative to the mammal.

5. Use of a first mammalian cell comprising a gene encoding a protein having intervertebral disc regenerating function in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or retarding degeneration of intervertebral disc at an intervertebral disc defect site of a mammal, wherein said medicament is to be transplanted into the intervertebral disc defect site with a second mammalian connective tissue cell, wherein the first mammalian cell is a mammalian embryonic kidney cell, and wherein said gene belongs to TGF-β superfamily.

6. The use according to claim 5, wherein said second mammalian connective tissue cell is chondrocyte.

7. The use according to claim 6, wherein the chondrocyte is non-disc chondrocyte or juvenile chondrocyte.

8. The use according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the chondrocyte for the second mammalian connective tissue is primed chondrocyte, and wherein the primed chondrocytes have been incubated with a cytokine of a member of the superfamily of TGF-β.

9. The use according to any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein the first or second cell is allogeneic relative to the mammal.

10. The use according to claim 1, wherein said medicament is to treat degenerated or injured intervertebral disc in a patient in need thereof.

11. The use according to claim 2, wherein said medicament is to treat degenerated or injured intervertebral disc in a patient in need thereof.

12. The use according to claim 5, wherein said medicament is to treat degenerated or injured intervertebral disc in a patient in need thereof.

13. The use according to claims 1 to 12, wherein the mammal is human.