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**JDCA**

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## Viacyte Human Trials Imminent

Yesterday Viacyte announced achievement of a major development milestone for VC-01, a product which combines cell supply and cell protection, and which the JDCA believes has potential to be a Practical Cure.

- On Monday the FDA gave Viacyte a key approval which paves the way for human trials to start in the next several months.
- The trial will consist of 40 people and is expected to last 2 years. Assuming that it begins in the next few months, we can expect full results during the fall of 2016.
- Viacyte's approach is noteworthy in that it combines stem-cell science for cell supply with a unique encapsulation device to protect the cells from the body's autoimmune response. Viacyte was able to take embryonic stem cells from a single human and, from that, create a purportedly inexhaustible supply of pancreatic progenitor cells. The progenitor cells are implanted under the skin in a specifically designed encapsulation device that protects them from an autoimmune response, and allows the progenitor cells to mature and differentiate into insulin producing beta cells.

Expectations are high. "The study is designed to provide a 'dose' of cells that will produce significant insulin production and be efficacious", says doctor Paul Laikind, Viacytes President and CEO.

This project is great move in the right direction toward a Practical Cure but there are many hurdles yet to be crossed. That said, this is exactly the kind of project entering human trials that the JDCA hopes to see many more of in the years ahead.