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BLASTOCYST

An early stage embryo about seven days following fertilisation and containing about 150 cells. A blastocyst consists of two types of cells: the inner cell mass cells, which gives rise to all the organs and tissues of a future embryo and foetus; and the trophoblast which forms a portion of the placenta. Embryonic stem cells are derived from the inner cell mass of donated IVF embryos.

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