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Biotech benefit for knees
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ONCE in a blue moon a stock market announcement arrives that could impact on AFL football.

Yesterday it was biotechnology company Mesoblast which has arrived at a therapy with wide application for our great game.

As part of its research using adult stem cells, Mesoblast has found the therapy significantly protected knee cartilage.

Pre-clinical trials showed that adult stem cells injected directly into damaged knee joints was a safe treatment and significantly increased the thickness and mechanical strength of knee joint cartilage.

"The results of this trial show for the first time that our off the shelf allogeneic stem cell product is effective for the treatment and protection of osteoarthritic joint cartilage," said Mesoblast founder Professor Silviu Itescu.

Given that knee complaints are the most common joint disease and that there are no effective therapies that target cartilage, the company will now rapidly advance a new clinical program for knee osteoarthritis.

Mesoblast shares leapt like Cazaly, adding 3.6 per cent to \$1.74.

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