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Hope for artificial blood
[The Sunday Times (Perth)]

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AUSTRALIAN scientists are close to being able to manufacture human blood.

Researchers at Monash University's Australian Stem Cell Centre have developed a genetic tool that could open the way for production of safe transfusable blood product in unlimited quantities.

The world-first breakthrough could save millions of lives around the world and help fight AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the Third World.

But the research could attract controversy because it

involves the use of

embryonic stem cells.

Laboratory leader Ed Stanley said blood production was ``still some way off". But he believed blood could be created free of viruses or diseases that might be carried from a donor to a recipient.

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