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B.C. urged to join MS trials

Andy Ivens, Postmedia News - Friday, Jul. 30, 2010

VANCOUVER - B.C. should take Saskatchewan up on its invitation to help fund clinical trials of a controversial new treatment for multiple sclerosis, a provincial New Democrat says.

"There's urgency here," said NDP legislative member Adrian Dix, the B.C. opposition party's health critic.

"A lot of people are leaving the country to get access to the treatment. There needs to be an urgency of response."

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall announced this week that his province will fund Canada's first clinical trials of the therapy -- and invited other premiers to join him.

The so-called "liberation therapy" is currently available only in a handful of Eastern European countries.

Italian researcher Dr. Paolo Zamboni has theorized that MS, a brain-wasting disease that has confounded scientists for 60 years, is caused by a blockage of veins in the neck that drain blood from the brain -- a medical condition known as chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency, or CCSVI.

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