Banking & Donating

YOUR CHILD'S UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD FOR FUTURE HEALTH NEEDS

Congratulations on your pregnancy and the future delivery of your child!

There is More Good News: You can "donate" or "bank" your child's umbilical cord blood - and perhaps even the cord tissues, placenta, and amniotic fluid - in order to save the stem cells found in these products for future health needs.

Why should women donate or bank their baby's umbilical cord blood?

To date, more than 70 diseases have been successfully treated with stem cells from ethical sources – such as blood, bone marrow, and umbilical cords. These include cancers (leukemias, lymphomas, myelomas), blood disorders (thalassemias, sickle cell anemia, Fanconi's anemia), and immune deficiency diseases.

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Thousands of successful medical treatments have taken place using adult and umbilical cord stem cells. When you hear of someone with a spinal cord injury *walking* after "stem cell" treatment, or of sickle cell anemia, cancer, or heart patients being successfully treated with "stem cells", understand that these are ethical ADULT & umbilical cord stem cells.

Heart patients are presently participating in adult and UC stem cell studies which are showing revitalization of heart tissue in many patients. Adult and UC blood stem cells are also showing hope to treat/cure many forms of Diabetes, corneal injury, lupus, stroke, arthritis, Crohn's disease, bone and skin damage, bladder disease, artery disease, immunodeficiencies, and possibly even multiple sclerosis.

Ways to Store Cord Blood:

The process is designed to take minimal time on your part because having a baby is the real priority, and the cord blood donation should not distract you from that event in any way.

Ideally, consent to donate is done by the 34th week of pregnancy; but, arrangements to donate can be done past the 34th week.

You can contact a private blood bank to "bank", or a public stem cell blood bank to "donate", your child's umbilical cord blood.

How it all works:

- Patient contacts a stem cell blood bank for a packet; this can be done by phone, online, or by mail.
- The stem cell blood bank sends a packet with information and consent forms
- Patient signs consent form and obtains physician's signature; physician reviews and understands how to perform the collection
- Patient returns forms to the bank by the 35th week of pregnancy
- Stem cell bank reviews for donor eligibility
- Collection kit is mailed to the patient
- Patient takes kit to hospital at time of labor/delivery
- Blood is drawn from the umbilical cord and placenta after the baby is born
- Your baby's cord blood is packaged, you contact the cell blood bank which then arranges pickup with its medically approved courier. The cord blood unit is picked up and shipped directly to the blood bank's lab within 48 hours of your baby's delivery.
- If, after rigorous testing for infectious disease, viability, and cell count, the unit of blood passes these tests, then blood type is recorded, the blood is stored in cryogenic freezers, and the unit is placed on a database and released to international registries to be made available to all transplant centers and anyone in need worldwide. If the bood unit does not pass testing, it will be used for research or even for transfusions.

Currently there are only about 100,000 units of cord blood available for transplant.

It is estimated that we need at least half a million units of cord blood to achieve a 90% matching rate for the existing population with diagnosed diseases.

Every year an additional 12,000 people are diagnosed with a disease requiring treatment by a cord blood stem cell transplant.

STEM CELL STORAGE BANKS

Only about 1% of umbilical cord blood - a vast source of stem cells - is now being stored because most hospitals do not mention to parents that their children's umbilical cord blood can be stored in blood banks. Alabama is one of a growing number of states trying to pass legislation that requires hospitals and physicians to inform parents of this option.

Umbilical Cord Blood stem cells may be stored in Public or Private Cord Blood Banks. Storing in a private bank assures that your own stem cells will be available for your family. Currently, there are dozens of private banking facilities throughout the world that offer parents the option of storing their baby's umbilical cord blood for possible future use. This option is beneficial to those families who may present a medical risk. Private banking does not put the stem cell units in the public pool. There is usually a substantial initial fee, and an annual fee, for private banking.

Storing in public banks makes the stem cells available to others who may be a "match" for the stem cells. If you choose to donate your child's umbilical cord blood, you will receive the satisfaction of knowing you have helped save another's life. There is usually no charge to donate the cord blood to a public bank.

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For more detailed information

about the use of Stem Cells for Medical Treatment, and Umbilical Cord Blood Collection and Banking, visit…

Benefits of Stem Cells to Human Patients
http://www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/treatments.htm
For updates on successful adult stem cell treatments, visit www/stemcellresearch.org.

The National Marrow Donor Program [marrow.org]:
Cord Blood Participating Hospitals
http://www.marrow.org/cgibin/NETWORK/nmdp_cord_blood_hospitals.pl#AL

Donating Cord Blood
http://www.marrow.org/NMDP/cord_blood_bank_list.html

The International Cord Blood Society
http://www.cordblood.org/public/insights.
[http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/faqs.asp]

Resources

** American Association of Blood Banks • www.aabb.org
** Babies for Life Foundation, (678) 937-1706, www.babiesforlife.org
** Cell Dynamics, LLC • www.celldynamicsllc.com
** Cord Blood Donor Foundation • www.cordblooddonor.org
** CryoBanks International • www.cryo-intl.com
** LifeBankUSA [public, also placenta donation]
1-877-LIFEBANKUSA • (1-877-543-3226)
** LifeCord (352) 224-1600 • www.lifesouth.org/lifecord/lifecord.htm
[collects from Montgomery/Opelika area]
** StemCyte [private donation only] • (866) 389-4659
www.stemcytefamily.com
** The Parent's Guide to Cord Blood Donation
www.parentsguidecordblood.org
http://www.parentsguidecordblood.com/content/usa/banklists/index.shtml
** National Marrow Donor Program • www.marrow.org
** The Caitlin Raymond International Registry • www.crir.org
** New England Cord Blood Bank • 1-888-700-2673
www.cordbloodbank.com

Babies For Life Foundation offers a streamlined process to make cord blood donation easy for you, your family, and your physician. Call (678) 937-1706 or visit www.babiesforlife.org for additional information.

Photos from *In the Womb, National Geographic*

Some Diseases Currently Treated with Stem Cells

(Source: Modified from National Marrow Donor Program)

Acute Leukemias
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)
Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)
Acute Biphenotypic Leukemia
Acute Undifferentiated Leukemia

Chronic Leukemias
* Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML)
* Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
* Juvenile Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (JCML)
* Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia (JMML)

Myelodysplastic Syndromes
* Refractory Anemia (RA)
Refractory Anemia with Ringed Sideroblasts (RARS)
* Refractory Anemia with Excess Blasts (RAEB)
Refractory Anemia with Excess Blasts in Transformation (RAEB-T)
* Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia (CMML)

Stem Cell Disorders
* Aplastic Anemia (Severe)
* Fanconi Anemia
Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH)
Pure Red Cell Aplasia

Myeloproliferative Disorders
Acute Myelofibrosis
* Agnogenic Myeloid Metaplasia (myelofibrosis)
* Polycythemia Vera
Essential Thrombocythemia

Lymphoproliferative Disorders
* Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
* Hodgkin's Disease

Phagocyte Disorders
* Chediak-Higashi Syndrome
* Chronic Granulomatous Disease
Neutrophil Actin Deficiency
Reticular Dysgenesis

Inherited Metabolic Disorders
Mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS)
* Hurler's Syndrome (MPS-IH)
Scheie Syndrome (MPS-IS)
* Hunter's Syndrome (MPS-II)
Sanfilippo Syndrome (MPS-III)
Morquio Syndrome (MPS-IV)
Maroteaux-Lamy Syndrome (MPS-VI)
Sly Syndrome, Beta-Glucuronidase Deficiency (MPS-VII)
* Adrenoleukodystrophy
* Mucolipidosis II (I-cell Disease)
Krabbe Disease
Gaucher's Disease
* Niemann-Pick Disease
Wolman Disease
* Metachromatic Leukodystrophy

Histiocytic Disorders
* Familial Erythrophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis
* Histiocytosis-X
* Hemophagocytosis

Inherited Erythrocyte Abnormalities
* Beta Thalassemia Major
* Sickle Cell Disease
Inherited Immune System Disorders
Ataxia-Telangiectasia
Kostmann Syndrome
Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency
DiGeorge Syndrome
Bare Lymphocyte Syndrome
Omenn's Syndrome
* Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)
SCID with Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency
Absence of T & B Cells SCID
* Absence of T Cells, Normal B Cell SCID
* Common Variable Immunodeficiency
* Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome
X-Linked Lymphoproliferative Disorder

Other Inherited Disorders
Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome
Cartilage-Hair Hypoplasia
Glanzmann Thrombasthenia
* Osteopetrosis

Inherited Platelet Abnormalities
Amegakaryocytosis/Congenital Thrombocytopenia

Plasma Cell Disorders
Multiple Myeloma
Plasma Cell Leukemia
Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia

Other Malignancies
Breast Cancer
Ewing Sarcoma
* Neuroblastoma
Renal Cell Carcinoma

Diseases that have been treated using transplanted StemCyte cord blood.

Storing
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for future health needs

The Importance & The Resources