

Frequently Asked Questions about

Umbilical Cord Blood & Stem Cells

<p>Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STEM CELL TRANSPLANT AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT?</p>	<p>Until now, the most common way to transfer stem cells from one person to another has been through a bone marrow transplantation, which is a complex and risky procedure. Cord blood transplantation eliminates many of the problems associated with bone marrow transplants should your child need this treatment sometime in the future. With the availability of your child's own cord blood stem cells, you do not have to look for a suitable match; the painful bone marrow extraction procedure will not be necessary, and the transplant will not be rejected.</p>
<p>Q. WHEN AND HOW DO YOU COLLECT THE CORD BLOOD STEM CELLS?</p>	<p>The collection process takes place after delivery when the cord has been separated from your newborn infant and in no way interferes with the birth of your baby. The cord blood is collected by your attending physician, nurse or midwife into a special, sterile kit, which has been provided by the Blood Center. The collected cord blood is sealed in a specially designed package and delivered to our laboratory for testing, processing and stored in a special freezer.</p>
<p>Q. HOW SAFE IS THIS FOR MY BABY, AND FOR ME?</p>	<p>The first priority is the care and well being of the mother and the baby. This procedure is very safe because the blood is collected <u>after</u> the cord has been separated from you and your baby</p>
<p>Q. DOES IT HURT MY BABY OR ME? IF IT DOESN'T HURT WILL EITHER OF US FEEL IT?</p>	<p>Neither you nor your baby will feel anything since this procedure is only done after the cord has been detached.</p>

<p>Q. WHAT DISEASES COULD BE HELPED/CURED THROUGH THE TRANSPLANTATION OF THESE CELLS?</p>	<p>Today, stem cells are used in the treatment of leukemia, breast cancer, lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, Aplastic Anemia, various other cancers, blood diseases, hereditary/genetic conditions and immune system disorders. There are approximately 1.4 million new cancer cases each year. As stem cell transplants become more routine they may be used to fight lung cancer, Sickle Cell Anemia, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, AIDS and many genetic diseases.</p>
<p>Q. CAN I DONATE MY CORD BLOOD SO SOME OTHER CHILD OR ADULT COULD BENEFIT?</p>	<p>Yes. The umbilical cord is routinely discarded after the birth. You can preserve these life saving stem cells by donating them to the Blood Center so they could become a lifeline for another child or adult suffering from a life-threatening illness. The Blood Center does not charge for this option.</p>
<p>Q. HOW MANY AND WHAT TESTS ARE DONE ON THE BLOOD?</p>	<p>The FDA requires that tests for infectious disease markers performed on the mother's blood. We conduct these tests and additional tests. Additional tests include testing for bacterial contaminants to make sure that the product from the cord blood is sterile, and the number and viability of stem cells in the cord blood.</p>
<p>Q. DO WE GET THE RESULTS OF ANY TESTS THAT ARE DONE? WHAT TYPE OF FOLLOW UP IS THERE?</p>	<p>The parents, upon signing a release form, can receive the test results if they request them.</p>

<p>Q. HOW LONG CAN THESE CELLS BE STORED AND STILL BE USABLE?</p>	<p>Research suggests that these cells could last indefinitely.</p>
<p>Q. IF, AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, MY CHILD OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBER NEEDS THESE CELLS, CAN WE CLAIM THEM?</p>	<p>If the cells are donated, they may still be available in our public bank. If the cells are no longer in our bank, we will help your family track down the closest matching unit.</p>
<p>Q. IF THERE IS A HISTORY OF A DISEASE IN THE FAMILY; I.E. LEUKEMIA, WOULD IT BE IN THE GENES? IF SO, WOULD A STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION FROM THE CORD BLOOD STILL BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO TREAT THE DISEASE?</p>	<p>Leukemia is not present at the beginning of life, but is developed by mutation or change in normal genes later in life. Stem cells in cord blood represent cells before any changes have occurred in their genes. In case of other types of cancers (e.g. solid tumors), stem cells are not involved and can be used for transplantation.</p>
<p>Q. CAN THE BABY'S STEM CELLS BE USED FOR THE SECOND BABY AND VICE VERSA? ALSO FOR A RELATIVE OR FRIEND?</p>	<p>Stem cells from a baby are a perfect match only for the baby or for an identical twin. They may be a close match for a second baby (1:4 chance). Relative and friend's cells have to match or closely match the baby's type in order to be useful.</p>
<p>Q. WHAT STEPS DO I HAVE TO TAKE TO BECOME REGISTERED IN THIS PROGRAM?</p>	<p>To preserve the stem cells for your baby, or to donate them to the community, complete the Registrations Form, Questionnaire and the Consent Form. Call the Blood Center at 201-444-3900 or 1-866-SAVCORD for paperwork and information.</p>

<p>Q. HOW LONG PRIOR TO MY DUE DATE SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE COMPLETED?</p>	<p>We prefer that you contact us at least <u>four weeks</u> prior to your due date, which gives you time to review the materials and ask questions. However, you can decide closer to your due date.</p>
<p>Q. IS THERE A FEE FOR THIS PROCEDURE?</p>	<p>There is no fee for donating to the community.</p>
<p>Q. WHAT IS THE MEDICAL CRITERIA TO ENTER THESE PROGRAMS?</p>	<p>The baby must be born full-term (>36 weeks). The mother must be at least 16 years of age.</p>
<p>Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF IT IS A MULTIPLE BIRTH?</p>	<p>We do not accept donations from multiple births (i.e. Twins).</p>
<p>Q. WHEN I'M IN LABOR OR ABOUT TO DELIVER, I'M NOT LIKELY TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY EXTRA DETAILS. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE AT THE HOSPITAL?</p>	<p>You just carry the kit we have given you to the delivery room, the cord blood will be collected and the Blood Center will pick it up from the hospital.</p>

<p>Q. ARE THE DOCTORS/NURSES AT MY HOSPITAL FAMILIAR WITH THE COLLECTION PROCESS?</p>	<p>After you register into the program with the Blood Center, you should discuss this with your physician.</p>
<p>Q. AFTER THE BABY HAS BEEN DELIVERED AND THE PROCEDURE OF COLLECTING THE CELLS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, HOW DO THEY GET TO THE BLOOD CENTER?</p>	<p>A trained courier will provide shipment of the cord blood unit to the Blood Center.</p>
<p>Q. ARE YOU LICENSED TO PERFORM THIS PROCEDURE?</p>	<p>Yes, we are licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health, New York Health department and we are accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks. We are registered with the FDA and a participating bank in the NMDP.</p>
<p>Q. WHY SHOULD WE CHOOSE THE BLOOD CENTER?</p>	<p>Community Blood Services, founded in 1953, is a not-for-profit organization devoted to serve the needs of the community in the area of transfusion medicine. Community Blood Services tests and distributes blood and blood products to approximately 37 hospitals, medical centers in New Jersey and New York.</p>

1-866-SAVCORD