Leuven Cord Blood Bank
Herestraat 49 3000 Leuven
Tel 32-16-34.68.94 Fax 32-16-34.68.83
e-mail : leuvencord@uzleuven.be
www.uzleuven.be/Navelstrengbloedbank

Leuven Cord Blood Bank

A NEW LIFE

SAVES A LIFE

Umbilical cord blood can help a patient with a hematologic disorder!

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What is an "umbilical cord blood donation"?

You are pregnant and delivery is imminent. After the baby is born, the afterbirth (also called placenta) is usually discarded. But before the placenta is expelled, the **residual blood remaining in the placenta** can be **collected** in a collection bag: this is **"UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD"**.

This blood contains **important "blood stem cells"** that can help heal **patients with a serious hematologic disorder (e.g. leukaemia)** by "cord blood transplantation". This procedure means that patients, after chemotherapy, receive new healthy "blood stem cells" to improve recovery. Because cord blood is being used, it is called "cord blood transplantation". Since 1989, thousands of cord blood transplantations were done, with a continuously increasing rate of successful recovery, especially in children.

We are requesting you to allow us to collect cord blood after you have given birth so that it can be used in transplants on patients with a serious hematologic disorder. Cord blood is collected immediately after your baby is born. No blood sample will be collected from your baby. Only the blood remaining in the umbilical cord and placenta – after the umbilical cord has been cut – will be collected. The blood is collected while the placenta is still in the uterus. This procedure therefore has no adverse effect on your child or yourself and is painless.

After collection, the cord blood is transferred to the laboratory, where it will be checked for compliance with the stringent international quality criteria and the tissue antigens will be identified. The cord blood will then be frozen for future use on a patient in need of a transplant.

What should I do?

Before we can proceed to the collection of cord blood, you must give your consent in writing, before getting into active labour. There will also be a **questionnaire** to go through in order to determine whether there might be a risk that the cord blood would not be suitable for transplantation (e.g. because it might be infected with a transmittable disease or because of known genetic anomalies in the family). Blood samples will be taken from the mother at the time of birth in order to exclude viral infections. In case of any deviant test results, the doctor you selected will be informed.

What should my baby do?

At birth, nothing!
When your baby is one year old, a general examination is due (**no blood sampling**) in order to fill out **a questionnaire on the baby's health**. This may be performed by the family doctor or the paediatrician or, if you so prefer, a special free consultation at UZ Leuven (on appointment) The questionnaire should then be returned to the Cord Blood Bank.
If in the future a hematologic disorder or another serious illness is detected in your child, we would like you to contact us so we can discard the cord blood cells (usually umbilical cord blood stem cells cannot be used if the donor has a hematologic disorder). **Tel 32-16-34.68.94**

Is it always successful?

No, there is always a possibility that your sample will not be frozen, e.g. when the volume is insufficient**. This bears no relation to your baby's or your own health**. In this case you will be notified in writing shortly after childbirth. The sample may still be eligible for **scientific research**. This will of course be completely anonymous and only if you give your explicit authorisation (see informed consent , item 12).

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Can I donate cord blood if any of my baby's siblings have a hematologic disorder?

No, not in the public bank, but the Leuven Cord Blood Bank offers the opportunity to freeze cord blood by name and allocate it to a specific patient in the **Family-directed Cord Blood Bank**. This is only possible if there is a child in your family suffering from a disease that may qualify for cord blood stem cell transplantation. In that case, the sibling's cord blood may be frozen and stored by name and free of charge, after authorisation by the bank's medical managing director.

Note: At present there is no scientifically proven indication for the use of private cord blood for a patient with a hematologic disorder (usually, umbilical cord blood stem cells cannot be used if the donor has a hematologic disorder).

What records are being kept?

The tissue typing of the umbilical cord blood, together with the data of mother and child, will be coded and stored in a computer file. This file is under management of the Leuven University Hospitals Cord Blood Bank. Anonymity is guaranteed. Whenever a patient needs a donor, the computer records will be consulted upon request of a physician. When compatible cord blood is found, it will obviously be used for transplanting on that patient.

Should I donate cord blood?

No, if you don't, it will have no consequences for you nor for the quality of the care you will be getting.

SUMMARY UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD DONATION:

Before the delivery:
- ✓ give consent to collect
- ✓ fill out the questionnaire

At the time of delivery:
- ✓ umbilical cord blood collection after the birth, without any risk for the baby or yourself
- ✓ blood sampling from you (normally only once, bar a technical problem)

One year after birth (**only if your donation was indeed frozen**):
- ✓ questionnaire on baby's good health to be filled out by physician

For more information: Tel.: 016/34.68.94, Fax: 016/34.68.83 or www.uzleuven.be/Navelstrengbloedbank.

In name of all the patients we would like to thank you for your kind cooperation.