

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

Alphacord

www.alphacord.com

1-866-396-7283

Family Link

Cord Blood Storage Program

Norton Healthcare Laboratory N-9

P.O. Box 35070

Louisville, Kentucky 40232-9847

Viacord

www.viacord.com

888-348-4340

Cord Blood Registry (CBR)

www.cordblood.com

1-888-CORD BLOOD (888-267-3256)

Cryo-Cell International

www.cryo-cell.com

1-800-786-7235

Cryobanks International

www.cryo-intl.com

1-800-869-8608


Lifebank

www.lifebankusa.com

1-877-543-3226

M.A.Z.E. Cord Blood Laboratories

www.mazelabs.com

The logo for Jasper Obstetrics & Gynecology features a large, stylized, decorative letter 'J' on the left. To its right, the word 'JASPER' is written in a large, thin, uppercase serif font. Below 'JASPER', the words 'OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY' are written in a smaller, thin, uppercase sans-serif font. At the bottom, the address '613 Dorbett Street • Jasper, IN 47546' and the names 'Steven K. Hopf, M.D. • Scott A. Beckman, M.D.' are listed in a small, thin, uppercase sans-serif font.

613 Dorbett Street • Jasper, IN 47546
Steven K. Hopf, M.D. • Scott A. Beckman, M.D.

Cord Blood Banking

One of the most exciting areas of medical research today is the use of **stem cells** collected from the umbilical cord and placenta of a newborn baby. Researchers and physicians are using these cells, which are contained in the blood leftover after delivery, to treat several types of blood disorders including certain types of leukemia and anemia. Other types of diseases are also being treated including heart disease and pancreatic disease. An area of interest to parents today is the opportunity to collect that blood and place it in a cord blood bank to save in case a child, sibling or other family member were to need a stem cell transplant in the future. This brochure will help to answer questions you may have regarding this procedure and help you decide if it is right for you.

What Are Stem Cells?

Stem cells are located in the bone marrow and in the blood remaining inside the umbilical cord and placenta. All cells are descendants of stem cells. Each stem cell has the ability to make other blood cells such as white blood cells to fight infection and red blood cells to carry oxygen as well as other types of tissue. Because these cells are able to produce more types of cells they can be very valuable in treating many cancerous and non-cancerous medical conditions.

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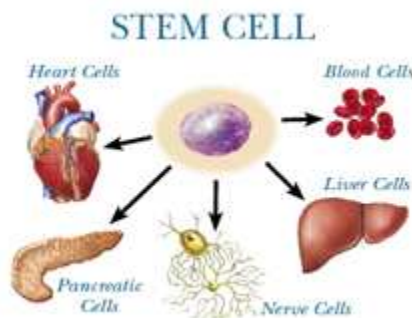
Is it right for you?

How is the cord blood collected?

After the baby is delivered, the umbilical cord is clamped and cut. The baby is given to you or the delivery room nurses. Your doctor will clean the remaining umbilical cord still attached to the placenta and withdraw as much of the cord blood as possible into a collection bag provided by your cord blood company. This process is painless to you and your baby and usually does not interfere with the natural birth process. The bag of collected blood is then prepared by the nurse for shipment and given to you. You are then responsible for contacting the courier designated by the cord blood company and they will come to the hospital to get it. When the cord blood company receives it they will test for certain infectious diseases such as HIV, syphilis, hepatitis and certain other viruses. It is then cryopreserved or frozen for storage.

What diseases can be treated with stem cells?

There are many diseases that can be treated with stem cells including certain types of leukemias, immune deficiency syndromes, cancer of the lymph system, bone marrow



diseases as well as other cancerous and non-cancerous conditions and abnormalities of metabolism.

Where does the cord blood go and who has access to it?

There are essentially three places where cord blood can be stored. There are several private, for-profit cord blood banks that you can choose from. The cord blood is your property and no one can access it except for the parents. An initial fee is usually charged followed by a monthly or annual storage fee. There are public cord blood banks usually associated with major medical centers that accept cord blood and store it. However, this blood is available to the general public just like regular blood in a blood bank. If your child's cord blood matches a person in need of a transplant, cells will be taken from the vial and sent to another hospital for that patient. Obviously this gives a chance to help another person who may not otherwise have a chance at surviving. It also means that the stem cells may not be available for your child should he or she need it. Stem cells can also be collected from cord blood for research purposes only. There are currently no methods of storage that guarantee the cells will be viable (alive and useful) if and when they are needed. Techniques for storage are improving and current studies indicate that there are viable cells after 6-10 years of freezing.

Unless there is a family history of certain medical conditions it is difficult to determine if your child or other family members will ever need the stem cells collected at birth. It is estimated that the risk of needing the stem cells is 1 in 1000 to 1 in 200,000. The chances will increase over the years as more diseases are found to be treatable with stem cells. Although the experience with stem cell storage is limited, there is information from studies that the cells last at least 10 years and possibly longer. The success of stem cell research and treatment continues to grow. There are many scientific and ethical questions yet to be answered in this very controversial area of medicine. The American College of OB/GYN does not recommend routine offering of this service until many of these important issues are addressed.