



FACTS ABOUT CORD BLOOD

Learn and share.
One conversation could make the difference.

The purpose of World Cord Blood Day is to educate.

For many, World Cord Blood Day will be the first time that they have heard about cord blood stem cells and the fact that they are currently used to treat over 80 different diseases including leukemia, lymphoma and sickle cell anemia. If this is your first time learning about cord blood, start with the basics. Review the quick facts below and then take it further by registering online for our **free virtual conference** to be held on World Cord Blood Day. Experts from around the globe will discuss how cord blood has changed (and continues to change) the face of medicine.

- ▶ Cord blood is the blood left in the umbilical cord and placenta following the birth of a child.
- ▶ Cord blood is a potent and non-controversial source of stem cells.
- ▶ Unlike embryonic stem cells (taken from an embryo), cord blood is not controversial or unethical in any way because it is only collected post-birth.
- ▶ Cord blood has no political or religious issues.
- ▶ Collection of cord blood poses no risks to the mother or baby.
- ▶ The collection of cord blood does not interfere with the birthing process.
- ▶ Cord blood stem cells are currently being used to treat and cure more than 80 life-threatening illnesses, including many cancers, immune deficiencies and genetic disorders.

Cord blood has several distinct advantages over bone marrow:

- Cord blood is **easier to collect, store and access** quickly for a transplant.
- Research has shown that in stem cell transplants where only one cord blood unit is used there is **significantly less risk of GvHD (Graft versus Host Disease)** for patients versus those undergoing a bone marrow transplant. In transplants where two cord blood units are used the risk of acute GvHD is comparable to bone marrow and other methods.
- Recent studies have shown that there is **less risk of a relapse** for certain diseases if cord blood is used.

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Learn more at
www.WorldCordBloodDay.org

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