

NATIONAL  
MARROW  
DONOR  
PROGRAM®

BE  THE MATCH®

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**WE SAVE LIVES THROUGH CELLULAR THERAPY**  
DEMOCRATIZING CELL THERAPY  
THROUGH CORD BLOOD



Alex Tung  
cord blood recipient

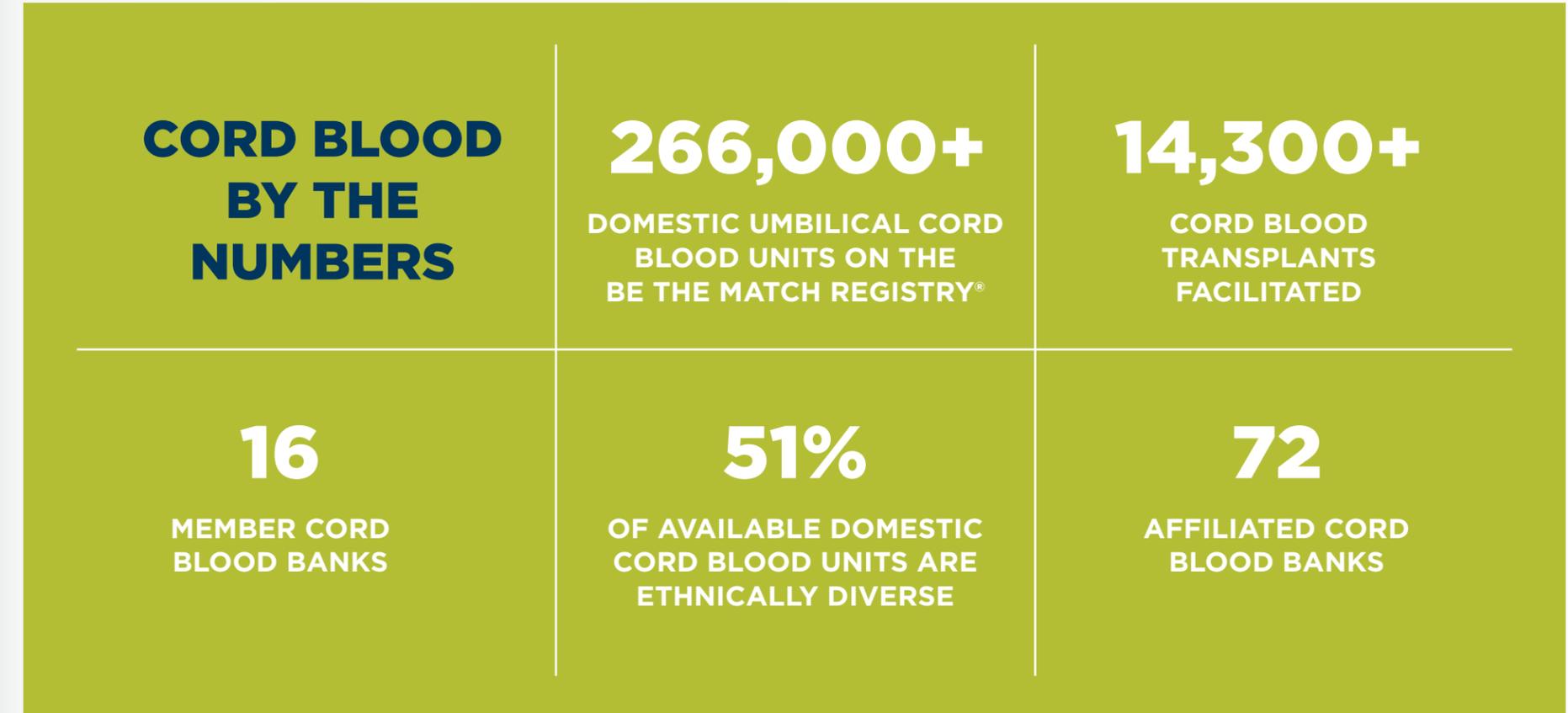
At the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/ Be The Match®, we partner with our global Network to connect patients to their donor or cord blood match for a life-saving transplant. **CORD BLOOD IS KEY TO OUR MISSION.**

Cord blood is a critical component in ensuring that our patients receive the cell therapy they need, when they need it. Through our Cord Blood Program, we are committed to collaborating with our clinical partners, cord blood banks and research colleagues to:

- Protect cord blood as a valuable graft source for cell therapy
- Advocate for its appropriate use
- Promote the ability of cord blood to expand access to our diverse patient population
- Reduce time to transplant for patients
- Serve as a platform for emerging cell and gene therapies

**Strong partnerships mean INCREASED ACCESS FOR PATIENTS.**

We coordinate cell therapy collection and delivery in partnership with our worldwide Network of affiliated organizations, including an extensive cord blood bank network. We strive to ensure all patients, especially those who lack an HLA-matched family member, receive the treatment they need.



# Cord blood is a lifeline, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

Cord blood is a valuable graft source for clinicians to consider early in the search process, especially when you have a patient with a low likelihood of a 10/10 related or unrelated donor. With greater matching flexibility to help overcome HLA barriers, cord blood can extend the availability of transplant to more patients.

*“For me, the number one benefit of cord blood transplantation is the marked decrease in chronic graft-versus-host disease that cord blood patients have after their transplant, presuming everything else is going well. That is probably the number one, two and three reason why we are such big fans of cord blood.”*

JONATHAN GUTMAN, MD  
Director, Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant  
UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital

# Cord Blood BENEFITS AT-A-GLANCE



## TRANSPLANT AVAILABILITY FOR MORE PATIENTS

Cord blood’s unique nature allows for greater matching flexibility. This extends the availability of transplant to more patients, including those who are ethnically diverse or pediatric patients.



## SPEED TO TRANSPLANT

For diseases in which speed to transplant is critical, cord blood units (CBUs) allow for rapid utilization. Cord blood units are cryopreserved, typed and fully characterized. Therefore, transplant centers can typically acquire a cord blood unit faster than marrow or PBSC from an unrelated adult donor.



## CHRONIC GRAFT-VERSUS-HOST DISEASE (CGVHD) INCIDENCE

Chronic GVHD is a well-known complication after allogeneic transplant that can impact patient outcomes and quality of life. Research has shown that patients who receive cord blood as a graft source experience a lower incidence of cGVHD.



## GRAFT-VERSUS-LEUKEMIA EFFECT

Patients with acute leukemias who have minimal residual disease pre-transplant may benefit from cord blood. Published research shows evidence that graft-versus leukemia effects seem to be stronger with cord blood than other donor sources.

## We offer support and resources to help you MAKE THE BEST SELECTION FOR YOUR PATIENT.

When you're considering cord blood as a graft source for your patient's transplant, you may have questions on cord selection, conditioning regimens or post-transplant care for your patients. Or, you may be looking for resources to support your decisions. NMDP/Be The Match can provide additional support and resources to help you to utilize cord blood with confidence.

### SUPPORT



#### Cord Blood Consultation Service

Selecting the best cord blood unit (CBU) for your patient isn't the same as selecting an unrelated adult donor. Clinical and product factors may affect your decision. You may have questions about what makes one CBU a better choice than another. That's why we offer a [Cord Blood Consultation service](#).

When you request the service, we connect you with an expert cord blood clinician who is practicing in a transplant center and is experienced in CBU selection and transplantation. The clinician will call you to discuss your specific patient case and provide guidance based on the nature of advice requested.

### RESOURCES



#### Unit Selection Guidelines

When selecting a cord blood unit, HLA-match is only one consideration. Access the 2019 unrelated donor and cord blood unit selection guidelines for a summary of current evidence-based research for search and selection, including non-HLA criteria such as CBU quality and cell dose.

The NMDP/Be The Match, the CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®), and the NMDP/Be The Match Histocompatibility Advisory Group published the updated guidelines in ["Blood" in September 2019](#).

#### Global Search Tool

Access an [overview of domestic and international cord blood banks](#) to help you select the best cord source for your patients. The report includes identification codes; the median turnaround time of typing and shipment requests; and location of source in the Unified List Type in [MatchSource](#)®.

## CORD BLOOD RECIPIENT STORY

### A cord blood transplant cured Sosa's sickle cell disease

Sosa received a double cord blood transplant for sickle cell disease when she was 12 years old.

Now she's 20, in her final year at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, with plans to pursue a career in medicine. She is completely cured.

"When I was little, we were told there was no cure for sickle cell," Sosa said. "I had frequent pain crisis and mini strokes. I had so many restrictions, constantly planning around my treatment and monthly transfusions. I didn't know if I'd live to be 18."

Since her transplant, Sosa's life has changed dramatically. **"Before my transplant, I was never able to play sports. Now I've taken up swimming, cross country and weight training. I've learned what it means to be 'normal,' to not have to worry about pain. I can just live the life I've been given."**

Cord blood transplant gave Sosa hope and led to a cure. "I did experience some side effects after transplant, including infections and skin problems, but they all resolved. **Thanks to my doctors and the people who donated their baby's cord blood, a 12-year-old girl got a chance to reimagine her life. I was reborn. I can't thank them enough. I am eternally grateful.**"



## CORD BLOOD

# RECIPIENT STORY

### Dr. Hall becomes a champion of stem cells he used to throw away

David Hall, MD, has delivered more than 5,000 babies in his 40 years as an OB/GYN. He'd discarded almost all of the cord blood as medical waste. He had no idea how valuable it could be until 2012, when he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with FTL-3 mutation.

"We achieved remission with chemotherapy, but without a bone marrow transplant my chance of remission-free survival was only 5-10%. We searched the Be The Match Registry for a donor without success—until we were told of the possibility of a cord blood transplant."

David learned that cord blood has many advantages compared to adult stem cells: It is stored and ready for rapid use, offers excellent anti-leukemia effect with much lower rates of relapse, and mismatches are better tolerated.

***"My life was saved in 2013 by just four ounces of liquid stem cells donated by two generous and caring families. I wish with all my heart that I could personally thank them for their amazing gifts, but all I can do is try to pay it forward by loving and helping others, and spreading the word about the value of cord blood."***



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***To learn more about cord blood and how we can partner with you to support your patients, contact our Cord Blood Program team.***

***EMAIL: [cordbloodprogram@NMDP.ORG](mailto:cordbloodprogram@NMDP.ORG)***

***WEBSITE: [Network.BeTheMatchClinical.org](http://Network.BeTheMatchClinical.org)***

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