



Cord Blood Transplants Reduce Complications

A University of Colorado Cancer Center study indicates that umbilical cord blood transplants may reduce post-transplant complications and the need for immunosuppression in leukemia patients. The study compared outcomes among patients using matched, unrelated donors to those using umbilical cord blood transplants.

Cord Blood Transplants Reduced GVHD

The study examined the occurrence of graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a common, potentially fatal transplant complication. Among patients who received matched, unrelated donor marrow transplants, the incidence of severe GVHD was 44%. Comparatively, just 8% of umbilical cord blood transplant patients experienced severe GVHD. They also had fewer infections and hospitalizations.

Cord Blood Transplants Reduce Need for Immunosuppression Therapy

A second major post-transplant benefit – the cessation of immunosuppression therapy – emerged among patients who received cord blood transplants. Cord blood transplant patients were able to cease immunosuppression therapy safely after a median of 268 days post-transplant. Patients who received matched, unrelated donor cells typically continue immunosuppression therapy indefinitely.

Refer-a-friend program:

You've learned about the value and the tremendous potential offered by stem cell preservation. Doesn't it make sense to pass that knowledge along to those you love? Learn more here: <https://cordbloodbank.com/refer-a-friend/>

Cord Blood Transplants Benefit Patients Not in Remission

Further, a Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center study suggests that leukemia patients not entirely in remission at the time of transplant also fared better, with lower relapse rates and higher three-year survival rates when treated with cord blood transplants.

If you would like more information about the cord blood banking services available through the New England Cord Blood Bank, please visit us on the Web at <http://www.cordbloodbank.com> or contact us at (888) 700-2673.

Refer-a-Friend



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November – Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month

Today, more than 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer’s Disease, the sixth leading cause of deaths in the US. One in three adults over the age of 65 will die from Alzheimer’s Disease or another form of dementia. Without significant advances in research, this disease could affect as many as 16 million people by 2050.

Stem Cells May Treat Brain Diseases and Injuries

Although not yet US FDA approved, researchers are studying stem cells as a potential treatment for brain disease as well as stroke induced brain injuries.

Last year, researchers at Stanford University injected stem cells into the brains of 18 patients who had suffered strokes and whose natural recovery from the stroke was thought to be complete. The goal of this experiment was to identify major complications that may arise from the injection of stem cells directly into the brain. Post injection, researchers observed about two-thirds of the patients showed improvements in their motor skills and some wheelchair bound patients were able to walk again. These improvements were still evident a year later.

Researchers Cautiously Optimistic About Stem Cell Results

Researchers caution that while this experiment provides great hope for future treatments, the results do not represent a scientifically acceptable measure of success.

Since Alzheimer’s and Parkinson Diseases are more complex than stroke damage, scientists are currently engaging in animal stem cell research that may one day lead to a drug-base and other human therapies for brain diseases. Researchers are also testing whether stem cells could deliver certain neurosupportive proteins to key areas of a diseased brain.

Cord blood banking and stem cell research may help lead researchers to new therapies for a wide range of brain injuries.

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NECBB in the Community

NECBB had a fantastic day at this year’s ***ZERO Prostate Cancer Run/Walk – Boston!*** Lead by Joe Rizza, our volunteer team had an enjoyable and rewarding day walking in support of prostate cancer research.