

The cord blood program is named after late Dan Berger, a Pittsburgh attorney who had a successful unrelated stem cell transplant to overcome cancer. In July of 2006, Dan's heart failed. During the course of his treatment, Dan and his wife, Carol, recognized the lifesaving potential of umbilical cord blood.

In October 2007, Magee-Womens Foundation announced the creation of The Dan Berger Cord Blood Program at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. This program gives parents an option to preserve or donate their baby's umbilical cord blood for future health care needs, research, or to help someone in need.

The goal was to become the model for all cord blood programs throughout Pennsylvania and beyond, which we have reached.

The one-of-a-kind Dan Berger Cord Blood Program continues to expand with the ambitious goal of not letting any cord blood go to waste.

This program was established by a lead gift from the Berger family in partnership with UPMC Health Plan and the Highmark Foundation.

"We are so happy to be able to offer this opportunity to our patients delivering here at Magee-Womens. This is such a generous and promising service for future generations."

-Richard Beigi, MD

Differences Concerning Cord Blood and Cord Tissue.

A baby's umbilical cord is made up of tissue and contains blood.

Cord Blood is a rich source of powerful and unique stem cells which have the ability to regenerate the blood and immune system. Cord Blood is considered a treatment for those suffering from the blood cancers and blood diseases.

Cord Tissue contains unique and powerful stem cells that emerging research suggests may have value in the regenerative diseases. Some current research studies involved with cord tissue are neurological disease/injury, skeletal disease/injury, heart/vascular disease and others.

Understand, that there is no guarantee that treatments being studied in clinical trials will be available in the future.



**THE DAN BERGER
CORD BLOOD
PROGRAM**

For more information, speak with your doctor or visit www.danbergercordblood.org.

**Or contact:
Mary Wiegel
mwiegel@itxm.org
412-209-7479 (office) / 412-327-6025 (cell)
www.givecord.org**

Cord Blood OPTIONS



**SMALL
PACKAGE,**
Great Possibilities



TIFFANI HODGES IS A
Grateful
MOTHER

When her son, Tristin Ross, was 3 years old, he was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma. His treatment included a bone marrow transplant. Then, at the age of 5, Tristin developed acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) - a fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow. In the past five years, he has received two cord blood transplants. Today, Tristin is a healthy, active boy with no restrictions, who likes to ride his bike and play outside from dawn to dusk.

Tristin's family will forever be thankful to the generous mothers who chose to donate their babies' cord blood to potentially give someone, in this case Tristin, *a second chance at life.*

Cord Blood Collection Options

Public Bank

Donate your baby's cord blood to the public bank, ITxM Clinical Services, and help members of the community. At www.givecord.org, you may request more information, register to donate, print forms and learn more about donating cord blood!

Private Bank

Save your baby's cord blood and/or cord tissue for your own family's use. Visit www.danbergercordblood.org for links to our Program's only private banking partners, CorCell, Cord Blood Registry and ViaCord.

Research

Donate your cord blood to research and help mankind! Contact Mary Wiegel at mwiegel@itxm.org or 412-209-7479 for current information.

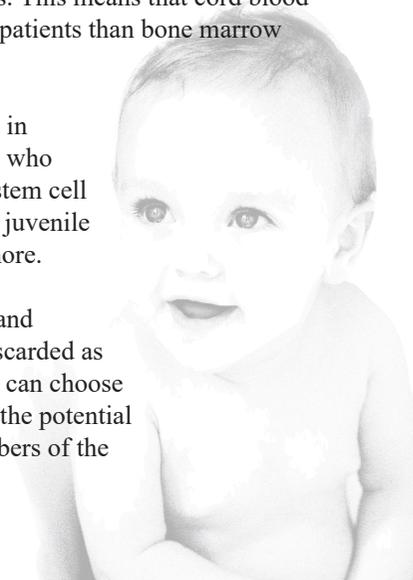
Why is cord blood important?

Cord blood is the blood left in the umbilical cord and the placenta right after the baby is born. The baby does not need it any more. But cord blood is rich in stem cells. These stem cells have been used to treat various diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma.

Cord blood does not have to match a patient's tissue type as closely as bone marrow does. This means that cord blood could potentially help more patients than bone marrow transplants.

Cord blood also can be used in research, supporting doctors who are working on developing stem cell treatments for heart disease, juvenile diabetes, brain injury, and more.

In the past, umbilical cords and placental tissue were just discarded as medical waste. Now parents can choose to preserve this material for the potential benefit of their family, members of the community, or mankind.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Will collecting cord blood hurt my baby or me?

There is no risk to the mother or baby because blood is collected outside of the mother's body after the baby is born, and after the cord is cut. There will be no change in the way mother and baby are cared for during labor and delivery or afterward.

What is the difference between donating cord blood and storing it for my family?

Public donations do not have fees. The cord blood tissue type is listed with the National Marrow Donor Program and stored in a public bank until requested for a transplant. If you store your baby's cord blood privately, there is an ongoing fee for storage, and only your family can use it. You also can donate it to research, which doesn't have fees.

Are cord blood stem cells part of the stem cell debates that I hear about in the news?

No. Umbilical cord blood stem cells are free of political and ethical debate. Umbilical cord blood stem cells are not embryonic stem cells. To read about the United States government's support and legislation, visit <http://bloodcell.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

Can cord blood be collected after delayed clamping?

Yes. If your decision is made for delayed clamping, the cord itself will be evaluated after delivery for a donation collection. There may not be enough cord blood to collect for a successful transplant unit, so the donation will not be collected. For a private storage option, the cord blood will be collected after delayed clamping since you are paying for that service.

What do I need to do to donate or store my baby's cord blood?

To Donate: Donation forms may be mailed to you; you can also print them from the website or complete them on-line at (www.givecord.org). All donation kits are kept at the hospitals.

To Store: Choose which private organization you want to store with and contact them to receive your kit and set-up your payment plan. In an emergency, private kits are kept at the hospital also.

For more information, speak with your doctor, visit www.danbergercordblood.org, or contact Mary Wiegel at mwiegel@itxm.org, 412-209-7479, or 412-327-6025.