Your baby could help save a life

Cord blood donations bring hope to those who are seriously ill.

Learn more about your donation options.

Cord Blood Center

GenCure™
Our Mission

To develop and maintain a statewide resource for potentially lifesaving cord blood to treat children and adults.

What is cord blood?

Cord blood is the blood that remains in the placenta after a baby is born. Cord blood has been found to be a rich source of stem cells and can be used as an alternative to bone marrow to treat many life-threatening diseases. Because these cells are normally discarded after birth, saving and storing them to be used is the ultimate in recycling.

Over 70 percent of children and adults requiring a bone marrow transplant do not have an immune-matched sibling who could be a donor. Because immune types are specific to ethnic groups, it’s important to collect cord blood units from donors of all backgrounds, especially Hispanics, African Americans, Asians and Native Americans.

The Texas Cord Blood Bank (TCBB) allows families the opportunity to donate their infants’ cord blood at no cost to them, ensuring that all patients needing a bone marrow/stem cell transplant are given an opportunity to receive one.

The TCBB is a nonprofit program of GenCure in San Antonio, Texas, and was established by a grant in 2001. It is registered with the national cord blood registry Be The Match®.

To participate in donating your baby’s cord blood to the Texas Cord Blood
Bank at one of our collection sites, you simply have to consent. For a current list of our collecting hospitals, visit our website: www.gencure.org.

Everything that is needed for the collection will be provided for you at the hospital when you deliver. A sample of maternal blood will be needed, and this may be done at the same time your other lab work is drawn at no additional cost.

The collection process takes place following the birth of your baby, after the cord has been clamped and cut. If consent is given, the placenta, cord and blood can be collected as natural byproducts of birth and an uncontroversial source of stem cells. If the collection meets the standards, the stem cells will be processed and stored for future use by seriously ill children and adults.

Following delivery, if the cord blood unit has been determined to be adequate, the RN coordinator will visit with you to obtain a thorough medical, social and family history. Every attempt will be made to do this at a time convenient for you.

By donating what is usually discarded, your baby’s first gift will be to help someone whose life is threatened by a serious illness.

Cord blood: An extraordinary gift from one family to another

At 5 months of age, Valentina DeLeon was diagnosed with SCID (severe combined immunodeficiency). Valentina received her stem cell transplant in April 2011. Now, her mother, Edna, describes her as “doing great and extremely active. Donating cord blood is the best thing parents can do.”
Patients are more likely to find a match within their own ethnic group. More ethnic minority donors are crucial to give more patients a second chance at life.

A cord blood transplant is an alternative source of blood-forming cells to bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC). Cord blood stem cells are used to treat more than 70 types of conditions and diseases, such as:

- Leukemia
- Blood disorders
- Aplastic anemia
- Lymphoma
- Deficiencies of the immune system
Emerging research

Researchers are investigating cord blood stem cells for use in potential therapies to treat:

- Alzheimer’s disease
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Muscular dystrophy
- Stroke

Two mothers’ selfless decision to donate their newborns’ cord blood renews a life

Retired Col. Raymond Holmes, who battled non-Hodgkin lymphoma for many years, received his cord blood transplant from two matching units. He says that he’s thankful each day for those mothers who donated their babies’ cord blood.
There is an average of four million births in the United States each year. Less than one in 10 mothers bank their babies’ cord blood. More donations equal more saved lives. Whatever decision you make – to donate or to store – collecting your baby’s cord blood might be someone’s hope for life.

In addition to public donation, TCBB offers two specialized cord blood banking options:

• **Private Storage Program**
  Banking your baby’s cord blood is a powerful decision for you and your family. Access to treatment may depend on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to collect and save a genetic match. Early enrollment is encouraged so that we can prepare to give you the best possible service in this important step of your baby’s life. To request the enrollment forms and to speak to a nurse coordinator about payment options, contact TCBB at 855-326-5764, ext.1865. For a thorough source of information, please visit gencure.org and click on “Cord Blood.”
Experience you can trust
When you choose the services of the Texas Cord Blood Bank, your cord blood unit will be stored safely and securely in our state-of-the-art and accredited laboratory.

• Related Donor Cord Blood Program
Blood from your baby’s umbilical cord can be collected after birth and used to treat a first-degree relative, such as a full sibling or parent with a qualifying disease or condition. A cord blood transplant may, in fact, provide the best hope for treatment. The Related Donor Cord Blood Program offers families this opportunity. There is no charge for collecting and storing the cord blood.

Contact the TCBB at 855-326-5764 ext.1865 for more information regarding your family member’s eligibility. TCBB will provide you with everything necessary to take to the hospital.

A perfect match
AJ Salazar was diagnosed with leukemia in February 2000, a few weeks before his 4th birthday. His best chance for survival was a marrow or cord blood transplant. At the time of AJ’s diagnosis, his mother was seven months pregnant with his sister Brianna. Brianna’s cord blood, collected at her birth, turned out to be a perfect match for AJ. He received her cord blood as a transplant, and today, AJ is graduating from high school and heading to college, where he hopes to continue playing football.
About GenCure

GenCure focuses on regenerative medicine and uses the power of human cells and tissue to inspire hope, enhance lives and enable clinical advancements. Using processed tissue and cell-based therapies, we work to connect medical requirements with innovative solutions that best serve the needs of the global community.

The Texas Cord Blood Bank is committed to being a primary source of lifesaving stem cells to anyone in need of treatment for a debilitating condition.

GenCure
6211 IH 10 West
San Antonio, Texas 78201
cordblood@gencure.org
(210) 731-5555, ext. 1865
(855) 326-5764, ext. 1865

Visit our website:
www.gencure.org