

Cord Blood Donation



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CORD BLOOD DONATION

The stem cells found in cord blood can be used for stem cell transplants, such as for people with leukemia.

That's why your midwife or gynecologist has asked you to consider donating cord blood after delivery.

In this brochure, you can learn more about cord blood donation. The brochure is accompanied by a questionnaire and consent form.



Sanquin Umbilical Cord Blood Bank

The first successful umbilical cord blood transplant took place in 1988. Since then, umbilical cord blood banks have been established all over the world. There have been more than 35,000 successful transplants using stem cells from umbilical cord blood worldwide. In the Netherlands, the national Umbilical Cord Blood Bank was established in 1994. This later became the Sanquin Umbilical Cord Blood Bank (CBB). The CBB is a non-profit public umbilical cord blood bank.

WHAT IS UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD?

Umbilical cord blood contains blood-forming stem cells. These stem cells are the foundation for forming cells for our blood and immune system. Normally, umbilical cord blood is discarded along with the placenta after delivery.

Why donate umbilical cord blood?

Unfortunately, not every patient with a life-threatening illness has a matching stem cell donor available. Umbilical cord blood is a good alternative in this case. The stem cells from umbilical cord blood can be used for stem cell transplants, giving people with serious blood diseases such as leukemia a chance of recovery. The donated umbilical cord blood can also be used for patients who need a different form of cell therapy. The cells from umbilical cord blood are then used to create a drug. If you decide to donate your child's umbilical cord blood, the stem cells will be included in an international donor bank. The stem cells can then be used for the treatment of a patient. Dutch patients naturally also benefit from this.



DONATING UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD IN STEPS

Step 1

Congratulations, you're pregnant!

From 20 weeks of pregnancy, the midwife or gynecologist will ask if you want to donate umbilical cord blood.

Step 2

Yes, I want to donate umbilical cord blood.

You can sign up from 20 weeks of pregnancy until the end of your pregnancy. Fill out the questionnaire and consent form, and sign it. Submit the form to the midwife or gynecologist as soon as possible!

Step 3

After giving birth.

After your baby is born and the umbilical cord is clamped, the umbilical cord blood will be collected. Some blood samples will also be taken from you. The umbilical cord blood will be transported to the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank as soon as possible. An employee of the CBB will assess the cord blood →

→**Suitable:** The umbilical cord blood is processed and stored in the bank.

→**Not suitable:** The umbilical cord blood is used for scientific research.

→**Not suitable and no permission for scientific research:** The umbilical cord blood is destroyed.

Step 4

Up to 6 months after giving birth.

If the umbilical cord blood is suitable for patient treatment, you will receive a postpartum questionnaire and return envelope after giving birth. Fill out the questionnaire and send it back to Sanquin in the enclosed return envelope. Sanquin will review the questionnaire. No irregularities? The stem cell product will be made available for patient treatment.

Good to know: There are currently no digital versions available of the questionnaire, consent form, and postpartum questionnaire. As soon as they become available, they can also be submitted digitally

HOW UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD DONATION WORKS

Before the birth

If you want to donate umbilical cord blood, please fill out the questionnaire and consent form provided with this brochure. You can submit the signed set of forms to the midwifery practice or hospital.

It is important for us to have a good understanding of your health and that of the biological father of the child. Therefore, we ask questions about your medical and obstetric history. For example, we want to know if you or the biological father of the child is a carrier of an inherited disease because we want to eliminate the risks of transmitting diseases as much as possible.

In the consent form, we ask you to agree to blood tests and the long-term storage of data and blood samples. The stem cell product is indefinitely storable. We will inform you if any significant findings emerge from the blood tests that are relevant to your or your child's health.

Good to know:

You can still decide not to donate umbilical cord blood up to and including the birth.

During the birth

The umbilical cord blood is collected after the birth of your child, after the cord has been cut. This is entirely painless and without risk. The health of you and your newborn always takes precedence, so the obstetric process is not disturbed. The exact moment of donation is determined by you and the midwife and takes place at a suitable time between birth and afterbirth. Donation does not necessarily have to start immediately after birth. It is possible to wait a few minutes before collecting the cord blood.

The cord blood is collected in a special bag. A small piece of the umbilical cord is sent to the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank. Several tubes of blood are also taken from you for testing for infectious diseases. A portion of this blood is stored in case additional tests are needed later. If any abnormalities are found during the blood tests, we will notify you immediately. Sometimes it is necessary to donate blood again for more extensive testing.

Good to know: If any problems arise during delivery, umbilical cord blood will not be collected

After the birth

At the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank, it is assessed whether your donation is suitable for treating patients. If so, the umbilical cord blood is processed and stored in the international donor bank. If the umbilical cord blood is not suitable for stem cell transplantation or the manufacture of medication, it can be used for scientific research in recognized research institutes.

Research can further improve the quality of umbilical cord blood transplants. New treatments for diseases can also be discovered or researched on how certain diseases can be better detected. Sometimes a sample of maternal blood is needed for this research.

Direct use can be made of the cells from umbilical cord blood during scientific research, or cell lines can be made from the cells from the umbilical cord blood. In making cell lines, the cells are modified so that they can continue to divide and multiply indefinitely, making them theoretically immortal.

Good to know:

On the questionnaire and consent form, you can indicate what you do and do not consent to. If the umbilical cord blood is not suitable for treating patients, and you have not given consent for scientific research or the creation of cell lines, the umbilical cord blood will be destroyed.

If the umbilical cord blood is suitable for treating patients, you will receive a questionnaire about your and your child's health within six months of collection. Based on your answers, we can then determine if the umbilical cord blood can be used safely.

If your child has a serious illness or inherited disorder in the future, please let us know. This is important information for us.

Sanquin stores the donated umbilical cord blood until a patient with a suitable profile needs it somewhere in the world. The umbilical cord blood is then additionally tested for certain inherited disorders (hemoglobinopathies). You will be informed immediately if there are any special circumstances

PRIVACY & COMPENSATION

All data about you and your child, as well as the results of blood and umbilical cord blood tests, are treated strictly confidential. Data is only accessible to designated Sanquin employees and legal entities (such as the GGD) to which the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank reports. We adhere to applicable laws and regulations. The donated material and medical data are shared with doctors and researchers without disclosing the identity of you or your child. The donated material and medical data are labeled with a code, so the recipient or research institute cannot identify its origin from you or your child.

Costs and compensation

Like with regular blood donations, the donor does not receive compensation. Sanquin incurs costs for processing and storing the materials. The midwife receives a small compensation for the costs incurred for collection. If a stem cell product is supplied from our stem cell bank, the requester pays a fee for it.

Transfer of stem cell products

If Sanquin decides in the future to close the Umbilical Cord Blood Bank, we are legally obliged to transfer the stem cell products to another nonprofit public umbilical cord blood bank. A careful transfer with the corresponding protection of your data is guaranteed in this regard.





When can't you donate umbilical cord blood?

- If you do not want to be informed of the results of blood tests that are important for the health of you or your child.
- If you do not agree to the storage of data and blood from you or your child indefinitely.
- If your pregnancy was achieved through egg donation.
- If the biological father's data of your child is unknown - unless there is sperm donation through a recognized sperm bank.
- If you or the biological father of the child have a disease or condition that can be transmitted through umbilical cord blood.

Do you have any questions after reading this brochure?

Please contact the midwife, the gynecologist, or the
Umbilical Cord Blood Bank of Sanquin.

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