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New horizon in private cord blood banking

Background: Stem cells from cord blood (CB) are an approved therapeutic source for various haematological disorders. Its storage became popular in America during 1990s and developed globally as an alternative to bone marrow transplant. In America, private cord blood banking is stagnant, in Europe the market is declining, while Asia is expanding via increasing birth rate.

Therapeutic Value of Privately Stored Cord Blood: Discussions have emerged regarding the utility of privately stored CB. Haematologists consider that the promoted therapeutic self-use is much limited. It is scientifically proven that about 90% of treatable blood related disorders in children are hereditary/genetic and not acquired; therefore, autologous use is not viable.

Private Cord Blood Banking–Redefined: CelluGen Biotech, India developed after years of R&D, an innovative cord blood pool banking concept, where high CB volumes are collected, analyzed, processed and cryopreserved after human leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing to ensure effective allogeneic utilization of the banked CB by its members. India has a high birth rate and a high diseases burden of hematopoietic disorders. The limited availability of a bone marrow match and absence of compatible cord blood units in public banks, inspired CelluGen to introduce “Cellulife” an allogeneic storage model, where on request of a parent, who did not store the CB unit at birth, CelluGen will procure it from a donor, process and store it for a fee in the private CB bank which entitles the parent to protect their family as a member of the private pool banking.

Conclusion: Cord blood is a valuable alternative of bone marrow and cryo preserving umbilical cord blood (UCB) stem cells is a valid concept if expanded to a pool banking structure. This concept may also reduce the dependence on donor bone marrow through a timely supply of UCB units for blood related disorders.

Biography

Falk Heinrichsohn has a Business Administration background and is Passionate about Health and Wellness. After various positions at Merck's Headquarter in Germany, he started his global journey as General Manager, developing and implementing strategizing business structures in ten countries. In 2006, he established a foundation, to sponsor patients with unmet medical need. After his retirement from the corporate world, he has contributed in developing various alternative health and wellness companies along with stem cell clinics. He is a Member of the International Consortium for Cell Therapy and Immunotherapy in Europe. Since 2016, he has been working closely with Lalit Jaiswal, Founder, Director of CelluGen Biotech; a stem cell research company based in India. Together with the amalgamation of technology, knowledge and expertise they have introduced to the world the innovative concept of corrective utilization of cord blood in the private cord banking sector.

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