



# **Success of Post Cord Blood Donation Contact & the Impact on Donor Suitability**

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# Background

- The use of cord blood products in transplant poses the risk of transmitting infectious and genetic diseases not yet manifested by the donor at the time of birth.

# Process

- The St. Louis Cord Blood Bank permits private completion of the Medical History Questionnaire (MHQ) prior to the onset of labor to elicit thoughtful and comprehensive information regarding risk factors and family medical histories. As a follow up to this approach, the program has designed a two-step process to contact mothers post cord blood donation.
  - The first call takes place two weeks following collection to evaluate infectious issues, clarify and update information previously obtained, and rule out coercion.
  - A second contact is initiated at confirmatory testing to uncover clinical conditions not apparent at birth, evaluate donor's current health and increase confidence in product safety.

# Follow Up Screening Phone Call: Sample Dialog

- Congratulations and thank you for donating your child's cord blood!
- Were there any problems you encountered during the process?
- Do you have any questions?
- Per cord blood bank protocol, I would like to verify the information on your Medical History Questionnaire.
- **Confirmation of:**
  - Infectious Disease Exposure/Risk Factors
  - Genetic History
- How is the baby doing?
- Were there were any problems at all encountered after delivery or since going home? (While people think that their baby now is "fine", rewording this question often elicits problems that have already resolved, such as time in SCN, newborn jaundice, etc.)
- All info on the MHQ is clarified, especially if the relationship of the person with a disease to the donor is not clearly described. Any missing information is also obtained.
- Mother is asked about any possible symptoms of SARS, WNV
- Donor/banking process is quickly reviewed.
- Parent is asked to let us know if baby should develop any blood disorder, immune system disease or any serious illness in the years to come.

# Results

- During the initial year of this process, 94% of all contacts were successful. In 2004, contact was achieved in 99.8% of post donation cases and 98.9% for the search process.
- This activity has resulted in 27 deferrals.
  - Nineteen were after the initial call (0.59%) resulting from clarification of information on the MHQ (9), new developments (7), or information obtained after the receipt of MHQ from “drop in” donors (3).
  - Eight (0.96%) deferrals occurred after search calls due to the revelation of issues involving donor and/or family health that could pose a threat to the recipient.
- Though not a large number of products are deferred with this activity, each event represents an avoided risk to a transplant recipient.

# Reasons for Deferrals Elicited on Post Donation Contacts

## **MOTHER OF BABY**

High risk lifestyle in 5 contacts

Shingles in last 2-4 weeks of pregnancy in 2 contacts

Received VZIG in last month for exposure to chicken pox

Recent needlestick

Bovine insulin use + military travel issues

Maternal episodic neutropenia-->possible familial cyclic neutropenia

Hodgkin's disease:symptoms during pregnancy ->diagnosed after delivery

Travel issues

# Reasons for Deferrals Elicited on Post Donation Contacts, cont.

## **FATHER OF BABY**

Recent chemo for Hodgkins

Recent chemo for Testicular cancer

## **DONOR**

Infant sepsis

Newborn systemic viral/fungal infection ---> ? immunodeficiency

Uncertain genetic defect (fusion of chromosome 13/14)

## **FAMILY HISTORY**

CJD

Siblings with chronic cyclic neutropenia

# Reasons for Deferrals Elicited at Search Contacts

Mother of baby had histiocytosis as a child

Donor with possible compromised immune system  
function in 3 contacts

Multiple peripartum complications

Donor, sibling and father all have Crouzan syndrome

Family history of FMF (amyloidosis)

High risk lifestyle issues confirmed

# Conclusion

- Our efforts demonstrate that it is indeed possible to contact nearly all donors.
- In addition, this policy has enabled us to express gratitude for participation and convey to the donating family that their gift may truly save a life.