

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND
VIEWS OF UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD
BANKING AMONG PARENTS IN KLANG
VALLEY

NURUL AIN ABDULLAH
1001128618

MASTER OF SCIENCE (ANTI-AGING,
REGENERATIVE MEDICINE AND MEDICAL
AESTHETIC)

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH
SCIENCES UCSI

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ABSTRACT

Umbilical cord blood (UCB) is a source of haematopoietic stem cells that can currently be used for the treatment of blood malignancies, inherited blood disorders and metabolic disorders. They are harvested during delivery and can be stored in a private or public umbilical cord blood bank (UCBB). At present there is still lack of knowledge among people regarding UCB, which results in low donation and difficulty in obtaining stem cells for therapeutic or research purposes. Therefore it is imperative for health care professionals to give reliable information to the public in order to assist them in making an informed decision whether to donate their child's cord blood. The objective was to assess the knowledge and views on umbilical cord blood banking among parents in Klang Valley. A convenient sampling was carried out. A total of 180 questionnaires were distributed, of which only 135 were completed. Questionnaire divided into 2 main parts, assessing knowledge and views. Statistical analysis were conducted to compare the knowledge of UCB and age, highest level of education and occupation. When assessing age, there are 55.6% participants age between 21 to 55 who have adequate knowledge of UCBB. The significance level is 0.003 ($p < 0.05$). As for highest level of education, 52% of participants with diploma have no knowledge of UCBB. Participants with a basic degree, has adequate knowledge of UCBB (54.9%). As for the participants with Masters or PHD (87.5%) of them has knowledge of UCBB. The significance level for education is 0.142 ($p < 0.05$). For occupation, those who are working in medical field has highest level of knowledge on UCBB (66.7%). In conclusion, parents in Klang Valley have adequate knowledge of umbilical cord blood banking. The younger and lower level of education had less knowledge on UCBB. A randomized stratified sample should be carried out to obtain a more representative sample of the general public.