

**KNOWLEDGE AND PERSPECTIVE OF CORD  
BLOOD BANKING AND DONATION AMONG  
WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP IN  
MALAYSIA**

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## ABSTRACT

Umbilical cord blood (UCB) contains hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) that are multipotent. Researchers are studying the potential use of UCB for the treatment of different types of diseases. In current practise, it is mostly used in clinical practise to treat haematological malignancies in children. Studies worldwide have reported that women have little or no awareness regarding cord blood banking or donation leading to most UCB being discarded following birth. This present study aims to examine knowledge and perspectives on cord blood banking and donation of local women of reproductive age. It is a cross sectional survey on women of reproductive age visiting 3 selected clinics in the Klang Valley region, Malaysia in April 2013. A total of 160 questionnaires were distributed. One hundred fifty six women returned the questionnaires, of which 5 were incomplete and excluded. Only 60% of the respondents were aware that UCB can be used for the treatment of some diseases. Eighty percent stated that their healthcare provider has never provided any information regarding cord blood donation or banking and 94% would like for them to provide more information on UCB banking/donation. Accurate and detailed information regarding the promising potential of UCB banking/donation needs to be provided to women in general. Healthcare providers should play an active role in educating women in potential advantages and the concerns of UCB donation or preservation