

Women's attitude towards umbilical cord blood banking in Poland

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Introduction:

Umbilical cord blood (UCB) is considered as a valuable potential source of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells. A process of collecting and storing UCB in the immediate period after the birth is called UCB banking.

Aim of the study:

The study was conducted in order to determine women's knowledge, awareness, preferences and attitude towards UCB banking in Poland, considering the sociodemographic and obstetric factors.

Material and Methods:

A cross-sectional, self-administered, online questionnaire-based study including mostly multiple choice questions concerning attitude and awareness regarding UCB banking was conducted amongst women in Poland. A total of 1077 participants correctly completed the survey.

Results:

Most participants (n=911, 84.6%) were aware of the possibility of UCB banking. Social media were considered as the main source of information (47.5%). However, the participants asked about their preferred source of reliable information mostly indicated the doctor (86.8%). The majority of women (61.8%) assessed their level of knowledge of UCB banking as still insufficient. Amongst the participants who supported UCB banking (70%), the following reasons were considered as the most vital: potential possibility of helping their child (93.9%) and helping other relatives (64.4%). More than half of the respondents (66.9%), who have not stored and are not willing to store their children's UCB, indicated the high cost of UCB banking as the main reason for this decision.

Conclusion:

The knowledge and awareness of UCB storage and banking possibilities amongst women in Poland could be improved. The professional medical personnel should be a source of reliable information.

Keywords: Cord blood stem cells, Umbilical cord blood, Umbilical cord blood banking, Women's knowledge