

The background of the cover is a deep red with abstract, organic shapes. In the center, a fetus is shown in profile, glowing from within. A thin, red, curved line extends from the fetus's lower body towards the bottom right corner. At the top left, there is a white rectangular box.

Cord Blood Stem Cells Medicine

Edited by
Catherine Stavropoulos-Giokas
Dominique Charron
Cristina Navarrete



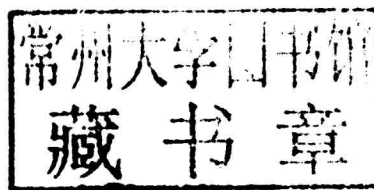
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Foreword

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CORD BLOOD TRANSPLANT

Since the first human cord blood transplant, performed in 1988, cord blood banks have been established worldwide for collection and cryopreservation of cord blood for allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant. Umbilical cord blood (UCB) has now become a commonly used source of hematopoietic stem cells for allogeneic transplantation. Today, a global network of cord blood banks and transplant centers has been established for a common inventory with an estimated 600,000 UCB banked and an estimated 30,000 UCB units distributed worldwide for adults and children with severe hematological diseases. Several studies have shown that the number of cells is the most important factor for engraftment while some degree of HLA mismatches is acceptable. The absence of ethical concern, the unlimited supply of cells explains the increasing interest of using cord blood for stem cell therapy.

Much has been learned in a relatively short time on the properties of cord blood hematopoietic progenitors and their clinical application. Cord blood transplant needs to meet several new challenges. First, several methods of improvement of the speed of engraftment and decreasing transplant-related mortality are investigated such as the increase of donor pool to decrease the number of HLA mismatches or the use of double cord blood transplants. Other methods are currently investigated such as cord blood intrabone infusion, ex vivo expansion with cytokine cocktails or homing factors or addition of mesenchymal stromal cells. More interestingly, nonhematopoietic stem cells have been isolated from cord blood and placenta and could be used for the treatment of auto-immune diseases or for regenerative medicine.

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Contents

List of Contributors
Foreword

xiii
xvii

Section I Introduction

1. Introduction to Cord Blood Stem Cells

*Dominique Charron, Catherine Stavropoulos-Giokas
and Cristina Navarrete*

12. USSC and MSC from CB Support Hematopoietic Cells	17
13. Liver Regeneration and Potential of CB-derived Stem Cells to Undergo Hepatic Differentiation	20
14. Cardial Regeneration In vivo	21
15. In vitro Differentiation Potential Toward Cardiomyocytes	21
16. CB Subpopulations for Neuronal Regeneration	22
17. Reprogrammed Subpopulations from CB	22
18. Conclusion	23
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations	23
References	24

Section II Cord Blood Cells Biology

2. Cord Blood Content

*Gesine Kögler, Julia Bosch, Stefanie Liedtke and
Teja Falk Radke*

1. Biological Background of Cord Blood Cells—Development of Hematopoietic and Nonhematopoietic Cells	9
2. Endothelial Cells in CB	9
3. Stromal Cells in CB and Cord Tissue as Compared to BM	10
4. Isolation, Expansion, and Characterization of CB-derived Adherent Cells from CB	12
5. Generation of Cell Clones and Clonal Populations	12
6. USSC and CB MSC	12
7. Generation of Adherent Cells from the Wharton's Jelly (Cord)	12
8. Gene Expression Profiles	13
9. Correlation of <i>HOX</i> -gene Expression and Regenerative Potential	13
10. Bone and Cartilage Forming Potential of Cord Blood Stromal Cells	16
11. Why Do We Have These Progenitors or Elusive Cells in CB?	16

3. Cord Blood Hematopoiesis: The Road to Transplantation

*Anna Rita Migliaccio and Thalia
Papayannopoulou*

1. Use of Placental Cord Blood as a Source for Hematopoietic Stem/Progenitor Cells Transplantation: A Historical Perspective	27
2. Characterization of PCB HSPCs	28
3. Strategies to Overcome Current Limitations in PCB Transplantation	29
4. Increasing the HSPCs of the Graft	30
4.1 HSPC Expansion Ex vivo	30
4.2 Transplantation of Two PCB	30
4.3 Collecting Cells Present in Additional Extraembryonic Tissues	33
5. Improving the Lodging Capacity of the PCB Graft	33
5.1 Intrabone Injection	33
5.2 In vitro or In vivo Treatments with Homing-enhancing Agents	33
6. Improving the Stem Cell Receptivity or Immunological Status of the Host	34
6.1 Reduced Conditioning Regimen	34
6.2 Injection of PCB-derived Immune Cells	34

7. Additional Clinical Uses of Cord Blood under Investigation	34	8. The Phenotypic Identity of ECFCs	55
8. Concluding Remarks	34	9. The Use of Umbilical Cord Blood or Placental ECFCs as a Cellular Product in Regenerative Medicine	57
References	35	10. Conclusions	57
4. Immunobiology of Cord Blood Cells		Glossary	58
<i>Sergio Querol, Aurore Saudemont and Antoine Toubert</i>		List of Acronyms and Abbreviations	58
1. Introduction	39	Acknowledgment	58
2. Immune Properties of Cord Blood Cells	39	References	58
2.1 Monocytes and Dendritic Cells	39	6. HLA and Immunogenetics in Cord Blood Transplantation	
2.2 NK Cells	40	<i>Dominique Charron, Emeline Masson and Pascale Loiseau</i>	
2.3 Unconventional Lymphoid T Cells	40	1. Introduction	63
2.4 T Cells	40	2. Structure, Function, and Polymorphism of HLA	64
2.5 B Cells	41	3. HLA Typing Techniques	64
3. Immune Reconstitution after CBT	41	3.1 Serological Typing	64
3.1 T-Cell IR after CBT: Thymic-independent versus Thymic-dependent Pathways	41	3.2 DNA-based Techniques	65
3.2 Double Cord Blood Transplantation	42	4. CBT Results	66
4. Generation of Immune Competent Cells from Cord Blood	42	4.1 Impact of HLA in Myeloablative Single Unrelated Unit CBT for Malignant Hematological Diseases in Children and Adults	66
4.1 Evidence of CB Immune Competent Cells Post-infusion	42	4.2 Impact of HLA in Reduced Intensity Conditioning Regimen and Double Unrelated Unit CBT for Malignant Hematological Diseases	67
4.2 Ex vivo Expansion of Naïve T Lymphocytes	43	4.3 Impact of HLA in CBT for Nonmalignant Diseases	68
4.3 CB as Source of Treg Cells	43	5. Other HLA Criteria for CBU Selection	69
4.4 CB-derived NK Cells	43	5.1 HLA Mismatch Direction	69
4.5 Adoptive Immunotherapy Using Highly Enriched Antigen-specific T Cells	44	5.2 HLA High Resolution Typing	69
5. Conclusion	45	5.3 (HLA) Noninherited Maternal Antigen	69
List of Abbreviations	45	5.4 Anti-HLA Antibodies	70
References	45	5.5 Non-HLA Immunogenetics	70
5. Cord and Cord Blood-derived Endothelial Cells		6. Conclusion	71
<i>Suzanne M. Watt, Paul Leeson, Shijie Cai, Daniel Markeson, Cheen P. Khoo, Laura Newton, Youyi Zhang, Stamatia Sourri and Keith M. Channon</i>		List of Abbreviations	71
1. Introduction	49	References	72
2. The Human Endothelial Colony-forming Cell Hierarchy	51		
3. Differences between Human Umbilical Cord Blood ECFCs and Those Sourced from Adult Peripheral Blood, Umbilical Cord, and Placenta	51	Section III	
4. Obstetric Factors and ECFC Content in Umbilical Cord Blood at Term	52	Cord Blood Cells for Clinical Use	
5. ECFC Content and Function in Umbilical Cord Blood Based on Gestational Age	53	7. Clinical Use of Umbilical Cord Blood Cells	
6. The Diabetic Environment Affects Umbilical Cord Blood ECFCs	54	<i>Robert Danby and Vanderson Rocha</i>	
7. Processing and Cryopreservation Affect ECFC Numbers in Umbilical Cord Blood	55	1. Introduction	77
		2. Clinical CB Transplantation	78
		3. Clinical Use of Related CB Cells for Allogeneic Transplantation	79

3.1	Related CB Transplantation for Malignant Disorders	79		
3.2	Related CB Transplantation for Nonmalignant Disorders	80		
3.3	Directed Related Donor CB Banking	80		
4.	Clinical Use of Unrelated CB Cells for Allogeneic Transplantation	80		
4.1	Unrelated CB Transplantation in Children	81		
4.2	Unrelated CB Transplantation in Adults	84		
5.	Selection of CB Units for Transplantation	88		
5.1	Cell Dose and HLA Matching	88		
5.2	Other Considerations in Selecting a CB Unit	89		
6.	New Strategies to Improve Outcomes after CB Transplantation	93		
6.1	Expansion of CB	94		
6.2	Intrabone Injection	94		
6.3	Enhance Homing of CB HSC Cells	95		
6.4	Use of Growth Factors	95		
6.5	Co-infusion of CB with Third-Party Cells	95		
7.	Conclusion	96		
	List of Acronyms and Abbreviations	96		
	References	97		
8.	Immunodeficiencies and Metabolic Diseases			
	<i>Paul J. Orchard and Angela R. Smith</i>			
1.	Immunodeficiencies	101		
1.1	Background	101		
1.2	Severe Combined Immune Deficiency	101		
1.3	Wiskott–Aldrich Syndrome	102		
1.4	Other Immune Deficiencies	103		
1.5	Summary and Future Directions	103		
2.	Metabolic Diseases	104		
2.1	Background—Lysosomal Storage Disease	104		
2.2	Early Experience in the Use of Transplantation for Lysosomal Disorders	104		
2.3	Obstacles in Establishing Response of Lysosomal Storage Disease to Transplantation	104		
2.4	Response of Hurler Syndrome to HSCT	105		
2.5	Other MPS Disorders	105		
2.6	Indications of HSCT for Lysosomal Diseases of the CNS	106		
2.7	Other Inherited Metabolic Diseases	106		
2.8	Changes in the Landscape in the Treatment of Inherited, Metabolic, and Storage Diseases	107		
2.9	Unanswered Questions in the Use of Transplantation for Metabolic Disorders	107		
	References	108		
9.	Cord Blood Cells and Autoimmune Diseases			
	<i>LingYun Sun, Audrey Cras, Dandan Wang and Dominique Farge</i>			
1.	Introduction	113		
2.	New Insights in the Pathogenesis of ADs	114		
2.1	Autoimmunity and Loss of Tolerance	114		
2.2	Autoimmunity or Autoinflammation	114		
2.3	ADs: Stem Cell Disorders	114		
3.	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for the Treatment of AD	115		
3.1	Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation and Reset of Tolerance	115		
3.2	Allogeneic HSCT	116		
4.	Use of UCB-derived Cells and Cord Blood MSCs for Treating AD	116		
4.1	MSCs Identification and Properties	116		
4.2	Isolation and Characterization of MSCs from UCB	117		
4.3	Use of UCB-derived MSC for AD in Preclinical Model Studies	118		
4.4	Clinical Applications of UCB-derived MSC and Ongoing Developments	119		
5.	Conclusion	120		
	References	120		
10.	Umbilical Cord as a Source of Immunomodulatory Reagents			
	<i>Antonio Galleu and Francesco Dazzi</i>			
1.	Regulatory T-Cells	125		
1.1	Definition and Properties	125		
1.2	Treg Cells as a Therapeutic Tool	126		
2.	Mesenchymal Stromal Cells	130		
2.1	UC-derived MSC	130		
2.2	MSC as a Therapeutic Tool and MSC Immunobiology	130		
3.	Conclusions	133		
	References	133		
11.	Cord Blood Cells for Clinical Use: Expansion and Manipulation			
	<i>Amanda L. Olson and Elizabeth J. Shpall</i>			
1.	Introduction	141		
2.	CB Transplantation in Pediatric Patients	142		
3.	CB Transplantation in Adult Patients	143		
4.	Double CB Transplantation	144		
5.	CB Transplantation after Reduced Intensity Regimens	145		
6.	CB Graft Manipulation	145		
7.	CB Stem Cell and Progenitor Cell Expansion to Enhance Engraftment	145		

8. Improving CB Homing to BM	146		
9. Prostaglandin and Homing	147		
10. CB Immune Cells to Improve Outcome	147		
11. Expanding Multivirus-specific Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes from CB	147		
12. CB-derived Natural Killer (NK) Cells	148		
13. CB-derived Regulatory T Cells	148		
14. Redirecting Specificity of CB-derived T Cells to Leukemia Antigens	148		
15. Conclusion	148		
References	149		
12. Cord Blood Stem Cells for Clinical Use: Diabetes and Cord Blood			
<i>Yong Zhao</i>			
1. Diabetes and Global Challenges	153		
1.1 Type 1 Diabetes, Pathophysiology, and Challenges in Clinical Management	153		
1.2 Type 2 Diabetes, Pathophysiology, and Challenges in Clinical Management	154		
2. Stem Cells in Cord Blood	156		
2.1 Introduction of Stem Cells in Cord Blood	156		
2.2 Cord Blood-derived Multipotent Stem Cells	156		
2.3 Stem Cell Educator Therapy	156		
2.4 Safety of Stem Cell Educator Therapy Compared to Other Stem Cell-based Immune Therapies	156		
3. Application of Stem Cell Educator Therapy in T1D	157		
3.1 Clinical Efficacy in the Treatment of T1D	157		
3.2 Molecular Mechanisms Underlying the Immune Modulation of Stem Cell Educator Therapy in Type 1 Diabetes	157		
3.3 Cellular Mechanisms Underlying the Regeneration of Islet β Cells of Stem Cell Educator Therapy	158		
4. Application of Stem Cell Educator Therapy in Type 2 Diabetes	159		
4.1 Clinical Efficacy in the Treatment of T2D	159		
4.2 Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms Underlying Stem Cell Educator Therapy in Type 2 Diabetes	159		
5. Conclusions	162		
Dr Yong Zhao's Bibliography	162		
References	162		
		Section IV	
		Regenerative Medicine Applications	
		13. Emerging Uses of Cord Blood in Regenerative Medicine—Neurological Applications	
		<i>Jessica M. Sun and Joanne Kurtzberg</i>	
		1. Introduction	167
		2. Umbilical CB as a Source of Stem Cells for Neurological Applications	167
		3. Potential Mechanisms of CB as Therapy for Patients with Neurological Diseases	168
		4. Unrelated Donor CB Transplantation for Genetic Brain Diseases in Children	168
		5. Ischemic Injuries	170
		5.1 Animal Models	170
		5.2 Human Studies	170
		6. Neurodegenerative Diseases	173
		7. Autism	173
		8. Challenges	174
		9. Summary	174
		References	174
		14. Biobanks for Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells and Reprogrammed Tissues	
		<i>Lee Carpenter</i>	
		1. Introduction: A Brief History of Induced Pluripotency	179
		2. What Defines Pluripotency and the Pluripotent Stem Cell	180
		2.1 Isolation of Mouse and Human Embryonic Stem Cells	180
		2.2 Extrinsic and Intrinsic Networks that Contribute to Pluripotency	181
		3. Reprogramming Human Somatic Cells Toward Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Using Defined Factors	181
		3.1 Initial Reprogramming Studies	181
		3.2 Characterization of hiPSC Lines	182
		3.3 Reprogramming Technologies Now Available	183
		3.4 Direct Reprogramming	183
		3.5 Reprogramming for Biobanked Tissues	184
		4. Tissue Differentiation from hiPSCs	184
		4.1 Differentiation of hiPSCs Toward Cells of Interest	184
		4.2 Phenotyping and Functional Tests	186

5. Potential Applications for hiPSCs in Future Regenerative Medicines	186	4. Selection of CBU with “Permissible” HLA Mismatches	215
5.1 Novel Diagnostics	186	4.1 Direction of HLA MM and Effects on Transplant Outcomes	215
5.2 Modeling Development and Disease	187	4.2 Fetal–Maternal Interactions during Pregnancy: NIMA and IPA Effects	216
5.3 Pharmaceutical Testing	187	4.3 Improved Outcomes with CB Units that Share IPA Targets with the Recipients	217
5.4 HiPSCs for Transplantation or Transfusion	187	5. Approaches to Overcome the TNC Limitations of Single CB Grafts	218
6. Considerations Toward Development of hiPSC-derived Therapies	188	5.1 Double Unit CB Grafts	218
6.1 Genomic Stability and Characterization	188	5.2 Combination Grafts	218
6.2 GMP and Scale-up	189	6. Quality of CBU—Banking Practices	219
6.3 Ethics and Consent	189	6.1 Standardization of Banking Practices and Oversight	219
6.4 Banking hiPSCs and Multicenter Tissue Banks	190	6.2 Evaluation of the Attached Segment: “Prediction” of CBU Quality Post-thaw	219
7. Final Considerations	190	7. Patient Diagnosis, Relapse Risk, and CBU Selection	220
Acknowledgment	190	8. Other Immunological Considerations for CBU Selection	221
References	190	8.1 KIR-L Compatibility	221
		8.2 Donor-specific HLA Antibodies	221
		9. Other Graft Characteristics Affecting CBU Quality and Safety	222
		9.1 Attached Segment	222
		9.2 Time in Storage—“Expiration Date”	222
		9.3 Red Cell Content	222
		9.4 Nucleated Red Blood Cells	222
		9.5 Hemoglobinopathy Screening	223
		9.6 Blood Group	223
		9.7 CBU Cryopreservation Volume	223
		9.8 Bacteriology Screening	223
		9.9 Infectious Disease Markers	223
		9.10 Donor Eligibility	223
		10. “Back-up” CB Grafts	224
		11. Conclusions—Selection Guidelines	224
		Acknowledgment	225
		References	225

Section V Cord Blood Banking: A Current State of Affairs

15. Cord Blood Banking: Operational and Regulatory Aspects

Cristina Navarrete

1. Introduction	197
1.1 Promotion, Recruitment, Donor Selection, Consent, Collection, Transportation to Processing Facilities, and Donor Follow-up	199
1.2 Processing, Cryopreservation, Storage, and Testing	201
1.3 Listing, Searches, Selection, Testing, Distribution, and Follow-up	204
2. Conclusions	206
References	207

16. Cord Blood Unit Selection for Unrelated Transplantation

Andromachi Scaradavou

1. Overview: Search and Cord Blood Unit Selection	211
2. Quality/Potency of the CBU	212
3. Selection of CB Units for Transplant: Interaction of TNC and HLA	213
3.1 TNC–HLA Match at HLA-A, -B, -DRB1	213
3.2 TNC–HLA Match at Allele Level HLA-A, -B, -C, -DRB1	214

17. Quality Management Systems Including Accreditation Standards

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1. Introduction	230
2. Quality Management	230
2.1 Definition and Important Components	230
2.2 What is “Quality”?	230

2.3	Quality Characteristics/Requirements	230	4.3	Hong Kong	258
2.4	QM Principles	231	4.4	Taiwan	258
2.5	QM Components	231	4.5	Singapore	258
3.	QM Systems	232	4.6	Australia	258
3.1	Definition	232	4.7	South Korea	258
3.2	Benefits and Risks of Implementing a Quality Management System	232	4.8	Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, UAE	258
3.3	Elements of a Quality Management System	233	4.9	India	259
3.4	Setting up a Quality Management System	236	4.10	Malaysia	259
3.5	Total Quality Management	236	4.11	Israel	259
4.	Creating a Documented Quality Management System (Program): Quality Management Plan	237	4.12	Turkey	259
4.1	Quality Management Plan: Definition, Purpose	237	5. Conclusion		259
4.2	Management Requirements of a Quality Management Plan	237	References		259
4.3	Technical Requirements of a Quality Management Plan	240	19. International Development and Import/Export—WMDA		
5. Standardized Systems		244	<i>Lydia Foeken and Daniela Orsini</i>		
5.1	International Organization for Standardization	244	1. Introduction		261
5.2	The ISO 9000 QM System	244	2. Issues to Consider when Starting a Cord Blood Bank		262
6. Accreditation		245	3. Listing of Cord Blood Units—Making them Available to Transplant Units		264
6.1	Accreditation: An Overview	245	4. Registry—Gateway to the World		265
6.2	The Benefits of Accreditation	245	5. Search for Cord Blood		268
6.3	The Uniformity of Accreditation—Accreditation Programs	246	6. Challenges Related to the Provision of Cord Blood—Selection		272
6.4	Accreditation Programs in Cellular Therapy	246	7. Challenges Related to the Provision of Cord Blood—Service Provider		273
7. Conclusion		247	8. Challenges Related to the Provision of Cord Blood—Regulation		274
Abbreviations		247	9. Cord Blood Banks Worldwide		277
References		247	9.1 North America		277
			9.2 South America		277
			9.3 Asia		277
18. Regulation Across the Globe			10. Analyzing the Field—Number of Cord Blood Shipments		278
<i>Maria Mitrossili, Amalia Dinou, Vasiliki Gkioka and Catherine Stavropoulos-Giokas</i>			11. Future Plans for Cord Blood Banks		279
1. Introduction		249	12. List of Cord Blood Registries/Banks		280
2. Regulation in the EU		250	References		281
2.1	Cord Blood Banking in the EU: Directives 2004/23/EC, 2006/17/EC, and 2006/86/EC	250			
2.2	Regulation (EC) No 1394/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1235/2010 Regarding Advanced or Innovative Cell Therapies	253			
3. Cord Blood Banking in the USA		254			
3.1	Cord Blood Banking by State	255			
4. Cord Blood Banking in Asia, Africa, and Oceania		257			
4.1	Japan	257			
4.2	China	257			
			Section VI		
			Cord Blood Banking: Current and Future Outlooks		
			20. Allogeneic and Autologous Cord Blood Banks		
			<i>Paolo Rebulla</i>		
			1. A “Perfect” Match?		285
			2. Stem Cell Trans-differentiation and Tissue Repair?		285
			3. Source and Quality of Information		286