

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Umbilical cord blood transplants give hope to patients

Excerpt from "Be the Match Registry" newsletter

Every mother who donates her baby's umbilical cord blood after birth gives hope to patients. When patients with leukemia, lymphoma and other life-threatening diseases need a transplant, they may be treated with a marrow transplant using a donor from the *Be the Match Registry*®. A growing number of patients are receiving a transplant using donated cord blood, which is also listed on the *Be the Match Registry*.

Cord blood basics and the *Be the Match Registry*

- Umbilical cord blood is one of three sources for the blood-forming cells used in transplants. The other two sources are bone marrow and peripheral (circulating) blood (the two methods of donation for adult donors on the *Be the Match Registry*).
- Umbilical cord blood is collected from the umbilical cord and placenta soon after a baby is born. This blood is rich in blood-forming cells.
- The donated cord blood is tested, and if it meets quality standards is frozen and stored at a cord blood bank for future use. It can then be listed on the *Be the Match Registry* and is available for searching patients.
- The stored cord blood is called a cord blood unit.

The first cord blood transplant was done in 1988. The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), which operates the *Be the Match Registry*, began facilitating transplants using donated umbilical cord blood in 2000. Today, nearly 145,000 cord blood units are listed on the *Be the Match Registry*, and the NMDP has facilitated more than 4,700 cord blood transplants.

Cord blood is being used for more patients, both children and adults, although it is used more often in children. This is because a cord blood unit has a limited amount of blood-forming cells. Smaller

patients need fewer cells and larger patients need more cells. Because some cord blood units may not have enough cells for larger patients, those patients sometimes receive two or more cord blood units combined.

Reasons patients' doctors may choose cord blood

- Cord blood may not have to be as closely matched to the patient as a marrow donor, so it may be an option for patients with uncommon tissue types.
- Cord blood units are stored and ready to use, so may be selected if a patient needs to receive a transplant very quickly.
- Studies have found that a transplant complication called graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) is less common and less severe after cord blood transplants.

Reasons patients' doctors may not choose cord blood

- There may not be enough blood-forming cells in a cord blood unit for the size of the patient.
- It usually takes longer for cord blood cells to begin to engraft (create new blood cells and an immune system). Until the cells engraft, the patient is at high risk for infection.
- With a cord blood unit, there are no back-up cells available. For transplants using adult donors, the patient may be able to get a second donation from the same donor if needed, and if the donor agrees. After a cord blood transplant, that option is not available, though doctors may be able to use a different cord blood unit.
- Cord blood is a newer treatment approach for transplant, and doctors do not have as much information about patients' long-term results after cord blood transplants as they do for marrow transplants.

Cord blood donation gives hope

If you are expecting a baby, or know someone who is, learn how you can donate your baby's cord blood to a public cord blood bank to give patients hope.

Hospitals in California currently participating in the collection and “banking” of cord blood include:

- ❖ Long Beach Memorial Center
- ❖ Long Beach, CA
- ❖ White Memorial Medical Center Los Angeles, CA
- ❖ Alta Bates Summit Medical Center
Oakland, CA
- ❖ St. Joseph's Hospital of Orange
Orange, CA
- ❖ Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Torrance, CA

For a list of hospitals by state (and worldwide) see:
http://www.marlow.org/HELP/Donate_Cord_Blood_Share_Life/How_to_Donate_Cord_Blood/CB_Participating_Hospitals/nmdp_cord_blood_hospitals.pl

Be the Match, operated by National Marrow Donor Program, is dedicated to ensuring all patients receive the bone marrow or umbilical cord blood transplant they need -- through education and support to patients and health care professionals, and through medical research. For more information, visit: www.BeTheMatch.org and click on the “Donate Cord Blood” icon on the right side of the page.

**Do you know someone who might
be considering abortion?
Make sure they get the facts first!
A LIFE depends on it...
1-800-395-HELP (4357)**

Library Corner

Unplanned by Abby Johnson

In our February newsletter we reviewed the book Unplanned by Abby Johnson. One of our members recently provided the review below.

I have just finished reading Abby's book, Unplanned. Even though I heard her speak at Walk for Life West Coast and knew something of her life and Planned Parenthood experience, I wanted to read her book. The book has had an effect on my heart in a way that I never expected. I have never had any sympathy or compassion for the mothers of babies being aborted or who have had an abortion.

As I read her book, I felt my heart changing solely because of Abby. There really isn't a lot in there re: the mothers but somehow my heart has softened and I see them in a different light. Through Abby I see that

the mothers could have been me. It is only by God's divine grace that I wasn't put in a situation like some of them. . . . I think seeing Abby's goodness made me see these women in a different way as Abby was like them early on. I guess I am saying that the book helped me see how vulnerable we all are to sin, even abortion.

So our precious Lord is still working through Abby and He has taught this old dog a new trick so to speak. I really enjoyed her book and found it so very touching. Now when I am down at 40 Days I won't have anger in my heart toward these women who are getting abortions. I am now going to realize they are a victim (to sin) as the baby is a victim to the abortion. My, oh my, where has my heart and head been? Seeing my own vulnerability to ALL SIN has changed my perspective. Praise the Lord and thank you Abby!

And another member provided a review of another book:

The Woman I was Born to Be by Susan

Boyle was a true testament to life. She could be the face of Pro Life. "When my mother was 45 yrs. old along came yours truly [the ninth child in the family]. The Dr. considered the danger so severe that they offered termination, but as a devout Catholic, that would have been unthinkable for my mother. She wanted to give this new life a chance."

What a great gift of music we would have lost. How many other gifts will we never see?

The book is funny and was a real inspiration to me. I think everyone would enjoy it.

With GOD for Life....Beverly McWilliams
If you have recently read a book with a pro-life message, and would like to share it with our members, send your book review to callife@calright2life.org.

Planned Parenthood's Mammosham

Before you sign up to “race for the cure,” maybe it's best to get up to speed on what, exactly, you're running for. A few years ago, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which raises millions of dollars a year for breast cancer research, admitted that it gives a portion of its proceeds to Planned Parenthood. When people grilled the

Foundation on their partnership, Komen tried to tamp down the controversy by saying that Planned Parenthood "provides vital services."



Considering the news that broke in late February, they might want to change that statement to "refers for vital services," as Planned Parenthood doesn't actually provide mammograms.

Apparently, Planned Parenthood doesn't need our tax dollars for free mammograms--because they don't offer them! Pro-lifer Jill Stanek did some digging, and it turns out that one of the organization's biggest arguments for government funding is completely invalid. "If [the pro-life provisions in this budget] ever becomes law," Cecile Richards has warned, "millions of women in this country are going to lose their health care access, not to abortion services, to basic family planning--you know, mammograms, cancer screenings, cervical cancer."

That's interesting, Stanek says, because not one Planned Parenthood in America performs mammograms. Even the organization's website tells women to "ask your local health care provider, health department, or staff at your local Planned Parenthood center about where you can get a mammogram in your area." Obviously, Richards and friends will stoop to any level of deceit to keep the government checks rolling in.

Meanwhile, what business does Susan G. Komen have funneling money to an organization that:

- a) does nothing to prevent breast cancer, and
- b) lies that it does?

There are plenty of respectable health clinics out there (1,200, in fact) that would host the screenings without promoting abortion--a procedure that may have more to do with causing breast cancer than curing it. (See: <http://www.abortionbreastcancer.com/index/> as well as the following article.)

Experts privately acknowledge abortion-breast cancer link, but say it's too political to discuss publicly

Karen Malec, the Coalition's president, said, "During the last 21 months, four epidemiological studies and one review reported an ABC link. [1-5] One study included National Cancer Institute branch chief Louise Brinton as co-author. [3] We count nearly 50 published epidemiological studies since 1957 reporting a link. Biological and experimental studies also support it.

"Experts proved in medical journals that nearly all of the roughly 20 studies denying the link are seriously flawed (fraudulent). Like the tobacco-cancer cover-up, these are used to snow women into believing abortion is safe." [6-16]

Professor Joel Brind and his colleagues reported a "30% greater chance of developing breast cancer" in their 1996 review and meta-analysis of worldwide data. [17] He said recently:

"If we take the overall risk of breast cancer among women to be about 10% (not counting abortion), and raise it by 30%, we get 13% lifetime risk. Using the 50 million abortions since Roe v. Wade figure, we get 1.5 million excess cases of breast cancer. At an average mortality of 20% since 1973, that would mean that legal abortion has resulted in some 300,000 additional deaths due to breast cancer since Roe v. Wade."

Brind's estimate excludes deaths from the use of abortion to delay first full term pregnancies - a recognized breast cancer risk.

Scientist: Abortion Caused Over 300,000 Additional Breast Cancer Deaths Since Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade Decision

In 2002, Angela Lanfranchi MD testified under oath in a California lawsuit against Planned Parenthood that she had private conversations with leading experts who agreed abortion raises breast cancer risk, but they

refused to discuss it publicly, saying it was "too political."

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The [Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer](http://www.coalitionforabortionandbreastcancer.org) is an international women's organization founded to protect the health and save the lives of women by educating and providing information on abortion as a risk factor for breast cancer.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see
www.calendarforlife.org

National Pro-Life T-Shirt Week – April 12-18, 2011

Every year in America abortion takes the lives of over 1.2 million human beings. From April 12 to 18, join thousands of kids, teens and adults as they give visible witness to the personhood of the tiny human being in his or her mother's womb. Get a shirt (\$6.50 each) and learn more about the event at www.NPLTW.com or call 1-866-LET-LIVE.

United for Life Dinner - Saturday April 16, 2011

United Irish Cultural Center 2700 45th Avenue (off Sloat Blvd) San Francisco. For more information call (415) 567-2293.