

# **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-4343  
(925) 944-5351

E-Mail: [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org)

Web Site: [www.calright2life.org](http://www.calright2life.org)

*Established 1981*

**July 2012**

## **"Chloe's Cord Blood Miracle"**

Saving or "banking" the cord blood from the birth of their daughter was almost an afterthought for Jenny and Ryan Levine. It turns out the price they paid for this simple procedure returned dividends far beyond their wildest dreams. Indeed, the adult stem cells from that cord blood proved to be priceless.

Born four weeks early and slightly underweight, there was nothing else particularly noteworthy about Chloe Levine entering the world. "A perfect little girl," recalls her mother Jenny. "Just perfect."

But within months, concern about this "perfect little girl" began creeping in. She couldn't hold a bottle by herself. She couldn't crawl. She wouldn't talk. Initially, the doctors dismissed these and other apprehensions. "But I knew something wasn't right," says Jenny. "There's no better way to diagnose something than a Mom's intuition. You know your child better than anyone on this earth."

Finally, Jenny and Ryan insisted on a closer look; a CAT scan was ordered and the results knocked them off their feet. Chloe had cerebral palsy (CP), a term used by doctors to describe various chronic conditions that negatively impact body movement and muscle coordination. CP is caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain and typically occurs before, during or shortly after the baby is born. In Chloe's case, doctors believe she suffered a stroke sometime during Jenny's pregnancy.

Experts say children with cerebral palsy may not walk, talk, eat or play in the same ways as most other children. In Chloe's case, Jenny and Ryan were told that although Chloe's physical problems probably wouldn't get worse, they might not get much better anytime soon. "Your child is never going to be an Olympian," is what Ryan remembers being told. "You're going to be going through 18-20 years of therapy." "They told us that she would always be weak," says Jenny. "She would walk at some point, but they didn't know when."

So although cerebral palsy wasn't threatening Chloe's life, it had a tremendous impact on the two-year-old and her parents.

"I don't know that you can describe it," says Jenny in describing the emotional roller coaster ride where she was an unwilling passenger. "I don't know that that's an emotion that, unless you've been there, that you can make somebody understand. It's crushing, it's crushing. To see people stare, and I know they don't do it intentionally. That's just human nature. But to stare and to whisper and to have people bold enough to come up and ask me, it's heart wrenching. You don't want that. You don't want that kind of attention for your child, ever."

### **TURNING POINT**

Despair turned to hope one morning when Ryan got a phone call from his sister. "Hey Ryan," she said, "I got this great e-mail, I just forwarded it to you. It's about a little boy that lives in Sacramento that has CP (cerebral palsy) and did an (adult) stem cell reinfusion at Duke University. They're seeing some results and you've got to check this out."

Ryan and Jenny knew they'd saved or "banked" the adult stem cells found in the umbilical cord blood and placenta at birth—the same adult stem cells needed for a reinfusion. The Levines contacted Duke University Medical Center and soon found themselves at Chloe's bedside watching doctors reinfuse her own cord blood adult stem cells into her bloodstream.

It didn't take long for the effects of the reinfusion to take hold with Chloe. Within a few days she was speaking her nickname—"Coco"—for the very first time. Strength appeared throughout her body and she started walking, riding her bicycle and doing other physical activities for the first time in her life. In short, Chloe was very quickly becoming...normal.

"Just recently she started playing soccer," says Ryan with a broad smile. "The coach doesn't even know she has CP. We've just kind of kept that to ourselves. No need to know. If he didn't notice, we'll leave it be. It's

impressive to see her doing that. She's starting to ride a horse now. I don't know what's next; I mean, she'll amaze us. She'll find something else to do and she'll amaze us."

"Without the reinfusion of her cord blood stem cells, I truly believe we'd be living a completely different life," says Jenny. "Chloe would be very far from where she is today, physically, emotionally, mentally. It'd be a totally different journey."

Thanks to the dramatic turnaround in Chloe's condition, the Levines have become energetic advocates for cord blood banking, which in a very real sense is the "lifeblood" of adult stem cell reinfusion procedures.

"There's a lot of bad press, and there's a large, large debate over the embryonic stem cells and whether they're right or wrong," says Ryan. "Everybody will have their opinion. But the fact is, the cord blood (adult) stem cells are there. They're thrown away if you don't use them. There is no harm done to anybody by storing them. We don't know where science is going. Every day they're making new advances. That's my word to expectant parents is this is your one time. This is the one shot that you have to do that. If you give birth to that child and choose to discard those stem cells, you can never go back on that decision."

***Learn more about adult stem cells saved through banking cord blood by exploring these web sites:***

**Cord Blood Information**

<http://bloodcell.transplant.hrsa.gov/CORD/index.html>

**Donating Umbilical Cord Blood to a Public Bank**

<http://bloodcell.transplant.hrsa.gov/CORD/Options/Donating/index.html>

**National Marrow Donor Program**

[http://www.marrow.org/HELP/Donate\\_Cord\\_Blood\\_Share\\_Life/](http://www.marrow.org/HELP/Donate_Cord_Blood_Share_Life/)

**National Cord Blood Program**

<http://www.nationalcordbloodprogram.org/>

**Parents Guide to Cord Blood** (including choosing public or family cord blood banks)

<http://www.parentsguidecordblood.org/>

**How to choose a private cord blood bank**

[http://www.babycenter.com/0\\_how-to-choose-a-private-cord-blood-bank\\_1354934.bc](http://www.babycenter.com/0_how-to-choose-a-private-cord-blood-bank_1354934.bc)

To view a video of Chloe go to:

<http://www.stemcellresearchfacts.org/chloes-cord-blood-miracle/>

## **Highly accurate non-invasive pre-natal test available "within 5 years"**

Scientists are moving closer to a reliable, non-invasive pre-natal test for genetic disorders. In a study in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*, Jay Shendure, of the University of Washington, Seattle, pieced together a genetic profile of a fetus only 18.5 weeks after conception which was 98% accurate. "This is the first time that a fetus has been sequenced noninvasively," says Shendure.

A scientist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong discovered a technique in 2010 for creating a reliable test using only a blood sample from a pregnant woman. But applying the theory has been tricky. Even Dr Shendure's profile had a huge false positive rate for new mutations.

Other geneticists praised Shendure's achievement. Arthur Beaudet of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, told *Science Now* that "the near future will involve the routine sequencing of the genomes of fetuses during the first trimester of pregnancy." Kevin Lo, the scientist who first worked on the test, believes that all the problems will be worked out within five years.

Daunting ethical problems lie ahead. The test will be used extensively to abort children who have a genetic "problem". But who will define what constitutes a "problem" or a "defect"? Lo told *Science Now*: "I don't think it would be ethical to use this to screen for late-onset diseases like Alzheimer's or cardiovascular diseases, for example." But some parents would probably have few objections. Stay tuned. ~ [Science Now, June 6](#)

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!**

**A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-712-HELP (4357)**

***Note change in number***

## Report: RU 486 Kills 1.2M Children, Injures Thousands of Women

The Family Research Council has released an extensive research report on the RU 486 (mifepristone) abortion drug and the number are staggering.

Relying on FDA figures the agency disseminated in April 2011, FRC indicates more than 1.2 million unborn children have lost their lives due to the abortion pill and thousands of women have been injured — including more than a dozen who have died in the United States alone.

Here are some of the top takes from the new report, authored by researcher Chris Gacek, who received a Bachelors of Science in economics from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, a Masters and Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law:

The FDA estimates that as of the end of April 2011, 1.52 million American women had taken RU-486 to induce an abortion.

On the unsafe effects of RU 486 for women:

Dr. Ralph Miech, emeritus professor at Brown University's medical school, has published two peer-reviewed articles describing potentially undesirable effects related to RU-486 and its anti-glucocorticoid properties.[8] First, he believes that RU-486's blockade of cortisol receptors on bacteria-destroying white blood cells may impede the antibacterial defense mechanism of the innate immune system. Such interference, he hypothesizes, played a significant role in the deaths of at least five North Americans in which there was a post abortion, bacterial invasion of the uterus and subsequent septic shock.[9] Second, prompted by an article describing mifepristone-related adverse events with significant and unexpected levels of hemorrhage, Miech's second article argues that RU-486 appears to interfere with the body's ability to control uterine hemorrhage.[10] Such interference, if true, would be a dangerous feature of an abortion procedure that is designed to produce a simulated miscarriage. As will be noted below, the number of hemorrhage/transfusion and serious infection cases revealed by FDA support Miech's concern about RU-486 and hemorrhage.

Looking at specific cases of the abortion drug hurting women:

FDA's April 2011 RU-486 Adverse Events Summary states that "[t]he estimated number of women who have used mifepristone in the US through the end of April 2011 is approximately 1.52 million women." As noted above, FDA calculated that by that date there had been 2,207 adverse event reports submitted to FDA. [25] Prior to a 2006 oversight hearing on RU-486 safety, FDA told Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.) that it had received 1,070 AERs.[26] Thus, in the second five years of mifepristone marketing in the United States, the FDA received an additional 1,137 AERs—a total which seems consistent with the first five years.

The April 2011 RU-486 Adverse Events Summary states that there were 612 reports of hospitalization received as of April 30, 2011.

FDA's April 2011 RU-486 Adverse Events Summary indicates that 339 women "experienced blood loss requiring a transfusion" after taking the RU-486 abortion regimen.

By April 2011 FDA had fifty-eight reports of ectopic pregnancy cases – with two resulting in death – in conjunction with mifepristone-misoprostol use.

In the April 2011 RU-486 Adverse Events Summary FDA associated fourteen American deaths to the use of the mifepristone-misoprostol abortion regimen.

And, according to a study on medical abortion's safety and effectiveness published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology* and that Gacek noted, the abortion drug is more dangerous for women than surgical abortions:

"Overall, medical abortion had roughly four times the rate of adverse events than surgical abortion did: 20.0% of women in the medical-abortion group and 5.6% of women in the surgical-abortion group had at least one type of adverse event. Hemorrhage, as an adverse event, was experienced by 15.6% of medical abortion patients compared with 2.1% for surgical patients. Incomplete abortions were experienced by 6.7% of medical abortion patients while only 1.6% of surgical patients had incomplete abortions. The rate

for surgical (re)evacuation of the uterus was 5.9% (medical) versus 1.8% (surgical) for all causes (hemorrhage, infection, incomplete abortion).

## *Calendar of Events*

*Visit [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org) for the most up to date information on activities and events happening in your area. Have you visited the website lately? It is totally "remodeled" to be even more user friendly.*

**July 14, 2012 Sarah Durling 50 Mile Bike for Life.**  
See [http://wishes.causes.com/wishes/470475?bws=fb\\_stream\\_card](http://wishes.causes.com/wishes/470475?bws=fb_stream_card) or contact this office for more information.

**40-Days for Life - Fall 2012 – September 26-  
November 4, 2012.**  
See <http://www.40daysforlife.com/>



## **Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

*All men are created equal  
and are endowed by their  
creator with LIFE....*

### **WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?**

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same "no-exceptions, no excuses" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

*Newsletter printed by HMR Printing  
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