

Umbilical cord blood as transplantation graft source for adults with acute leukemia

When an adult donor is not available, umbilical cord blood (UCB) can be used as a graft source for hematopoietic (blood) stem cell transplantation. This study examined the outcome of UCB grafts in adults with acute leukemia. The results showed that leukemia-free survival for UCB transplantation was similar to peripheral blood stem cell or bone marrow transplantation. Rates of graft-versus-host disease were lower with UCB than with peripheral blood grafts. Chronic GVHD was lower after UCB than after bone-marrow transplantation. These data support the use of UCB for adults with acute leukemia, especially in urgent situations when a well-matched unrelated adult donor is not immediately available.

Source: Effect of graft source on unrelated donor hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation in adults with acute leukaemia: a retrospective analysis. Eapen M, Rocha V, Sanz G, Scaradavou A, Zhang MJ, Arcese W, Sirvent A, Champlin RE, Chao N, Gee AP, Isola L, Laughlin MJ, Marks DI, Nabhan S, Ruggeri A, Soiffer R, Horowitz MM, Gluckman E, Wagner JE. *Lancet Oncology*. 2010 Jul 01;11:653-660. PMC3163510