

July 19, 2024

RE: Promised Cures, Tainted Cells: How Cord Blood Banks Mislead Patients

To the Editor of the NY Times:

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) empathizes with families with disappointing cord blood banking experiences described in the July 15 article. Cord blood therapies have proven benefits. We emphasize that the quality of the cord blood units is critical for positive outcomes.

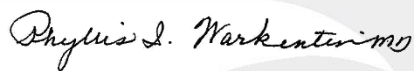
FACT sets quality standards and awards voluntary accreditation in cord blood banking. Standards are developed by experts; open for public comment prior to publication; and cover cord blood collection, processing, storage, and release. Use of an accredited bank provides the best assurance of viable and safe cord blood units suitable for treatment.

FACT Standards address several concerns raised in the article. Standards require that:

- Advertising claims are supported by scientific literature.
- Collections are performed by trained professionals according to standard operating procedures.
- Supplies are qualified and inspected prior to use.
- Transport of cells is appropriate.
- Testing is performed prior to storage.
- Families are notified if privately banked units do not meet quality specifications.

FACT encourages parents considering cord blood banking to ask questions, understand the potential limitations, and consider working with a FACT-accredited cord blood bank.

Sincerely,



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