

Abstract

Original Article

Knowledge and Attitudes about Cord Blood and Cord Blood Banking: Cross Sectional Study

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Abstract

Background: The Umbilical Cord blood stem cells is emerging as a non-invasive, efficacious alternative source of hematopoietic stem cells to treat a variety of blood and bone marrow diseases, blood cancers, metabolic disorders and immune deficiencies. The collection procedure is easy and without any risk to the donor.

Aim: This study aims to determine Turkish mothers' knowledge level and attitudes about cord blood and cord blood banking.

Methodology: This is a cross sectional study. The study was conducted at five primary healthcare centers in Erzurum city center. The research was made in collaboration with 322 mothers between ages 18 and 49 that came to the healthcare centers. The data was collected using a questionnaire form. Percentages and chi-squares were used to collect data.

Results: It was found that 29.8% of mothers knew about cord blood and stem cells and that they were used for medical treatment. 75.4% of mothers did not know about cord blood banks and 21.1% learned about these issues from the internet or other mass media. It was also found that knowledge level of mothers increased and their attitudes got better in accordance with their educational status ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: It was determined that most participants of the study did not have enough knowledge about either stem cells or cord blood banking. Thus it was necessary that they be briefed on these issues. During pregnancy follow-ups, midwives and nurses can inform and direct women about these issues.

Key words: mother, formation, attitudes, cord blood, cord blood bank