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Author: Troy C. Lund

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Umbilical Cord Blood Expansion: Are We There Yet?

Troy C. Lund, PhD, MD, FAAP¹

¹Division of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Corresponding Author

Troy Lund MSMS PhD MD FAAP Associate Professor University of Minnesota Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Program Stem Cell Institute Global Pediatrics MMC 366 420 Delaware St SE Minneapolis, MN 55455 Phone: 612-625-4185 Email: lundx072@umn.edu

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Umbilical cord blood (UCB) as an alternative stem cell source has been used in hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) for over 25 years now¹. While UCB is a safe and effective source of hematopoietic stem cells, it is limited by the fact that it contains a fixed number of HSC and is available only once for infusion. The number of HSC tends to be lower than one obtains from marrow as an HSC source. While UCB can achieve reasonable per kilogram cell doses in pediatric HCT, adults undergoing HCT may suffer from inadequate cell numbers. Recently, methodology to overcome the cell dose limitation have been pursed in a variety of ways: infusion of two UCB units², increasing homing efficiency of UCB cells³, and expanding the

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