

AMNIOTIC FLUID STEM CELLS
BIOLOGICAL INSURANCE
FOR THE FUTURE



Biocell Center®

WHAT IS AMNIOCENTESIS?

Amniocentesis is a diagnostic procedure that is performed during pregnancy based on the recommendation of your doctor or genetic counselor. Amniocentesis consists of the extraction of amniotic fluid by a thin needle inserted into the abdomen. Amniocentesis is primarily used for prenatal diagnosis of genetic abnormalities.

The typical time for having an amniocentesis procedure is between the 15th and 19th week of pregnancy, but your healthcare provider will discuss what the right time is for you.



FROM AMNIOCENTESIS TO VALUABLE BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

It is now possible to implement a “biological insurance policy” during your pregnancy by preserving your baby’s valuable amniotic fluid that contains many stem cells.

From a small amount of amniotic fluid withdrawn during routine 2nd trimester amniocentesis, cells, including stem cells, can be obtained, and stored at extremely low temperatures (i.e. cryopreserved) for potential future use by your child, from birth well into adulthood.

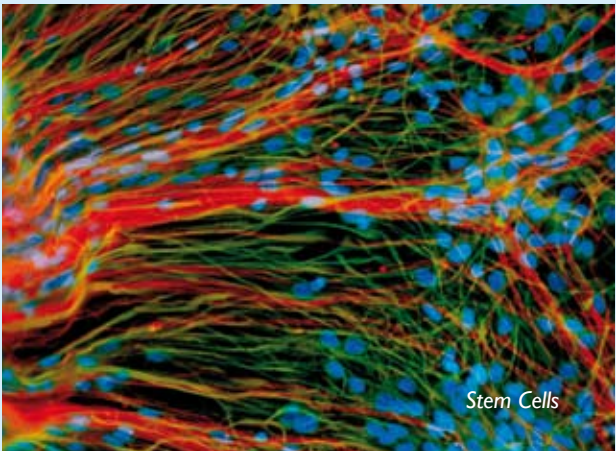
Collecting the sample for cryopreservation does not require any change to the standard amniocentesis. During a routine procedure, your doctor typically withdraws many milliliters of fluid. A small fraction of this fluid (few milliliters) that is not necessary for diagnostic analysis, is placed in a sterile tube provided by Biocell Center and sent to the laboratory for processing and long-term preservation.



THE BIOLOGICAL INSURANCE

The advantage of preserving cells from the amniotic fluid is that they contain pluripotent stem cells; that is, these cells can develop into many types of cells and tissues, and the child will always have a sample of biological material that is perfectly matched to him or her.

Moreover, other members of the same family may benefit from having access to this sample because, in many cases, stem cells are compatible with a sibling or parent.



Stem Cells

WHAT ROLE DO STEM CELLS PLAY IN HUMAN HEALTH?

Stem cells are the basic cells from which our bodies are built. During a baby's development, the cells grow to form all the tissues and organs of the body including muscles, heart, nerves, blood, and skin. In the adult body, stem cells are present in some organs and can repair damaged tissues. Stem cells play a crucial role in human health and well-being. Some stem cells can also be used in medical procedures.

Multiple research studies have demonstrated that stem cells from amniotic fluid are pluripotent. These cells also possess high proliferation capacity, that is, large numbers of cells can be generated from a very small number of amniotic stem cells.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR OR CONTACT BIOCELL CENTER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SAVING AMNIOTIC FLUID CELLS

Although there are no proven therapeutic applications for stem cells from amniotic fluid today and there is no guarantee that the FDA will approve these applications in the future, there are multiple on-going clinical research and development projects worldwide. Stem cells offer great hope in providing real solutions for a variety of medical conditions.

By preserving your baby's amniotic fluid stem cells, you will insure that your child will have an opportunity to benefit from future medical discoveries, if needed.

**Cananzi M. et al., Reprod Biomed Online. 2009; Schmidt D., et al., J Heart Valve Dis. 2008; LeBlanc K., et. al, Lancet, 2008; Steigman S, et al., J. Pediatric Surgery, 2009; Zhang P, et al., Stem Cell Dev., 2009; Pappa K., et al., Regen. Med., 2009; Parolini O., et al., Regen. Med, 2009; Arnhold S., et al., Cell Biol Intl, 2008; Gekas J, et al. Clin. Exp. Med., 2009; Carraro G., Stem Cells 2008; Ditadi A., et al., Blood, 2009*



Amniotic Fluid Cells Cryobank

PEACE OF MIND THAT COSTS LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE A DAY

The cost of our amniotic fluid cell cryopreservation service is \$1,650 for the first year of banking. A non-refundable fee of \$399 is due when the contract is signed and covers the cost of the collection kit, shipping the sample to Biocell Center laboratory, and initial sample intake. The remaining balance of \$1,251 covers the processing and preparation of cells for cryopreservation, and is payable within 30 days after obtaining the report from Biocell Center that confirms that the cryopreservation process was completed successfully. After the first year, the cost of storing the sample is \$120 per year. Pre-payment plans are available and provide significant savings on your annual storage fees.

The full contract can be downloaded from our website www.biocellcenter.com or requested by calling 1-781-391-2040.

SHIPPING AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

The collection kit provided by Biocell Center contains a 15 ml tube with an orange lid placed in a foam holder and fitted into a white plastic container with a red lid. This container is packed into a cardboard box. In addition, the box contains a plastic orange FEDEX mailing envelope for shipping the sample to Biocell Center and the Instructions for the patient (pregnant woman scheduled for amniocentesis) as well as for the healthcare provider who will collect the sample.

It is important to call the delivery company one day before the scheduled amniocentesis procedure and set up the package pick up time, either from the patients' home or from the doctor's office. During the visit, the doctor will extract amniotic fluid via the standard amniocentesis procedure, and place at least 3 milliliters into the orange-capped tube. Once the physician has collected the sample, he or she will write the first and last name of the patient on the tube containing the extracted fluid, and acquire the patient's signature. The doctor will then place the tightly closed tube containing the amniotic fluid sample into the foam insert and then into the leak proof bag and then into the white plastic container. The container is closed with the red lid, then placed into the orange FEDEX mailing envelope together with the properly filled out paperwork accompanying the kit, and stored at room temperature until its scheduled pick up. The envelope and attached

documentation is then sent via the delivery company (FEDEX) to Biocell Center within 24 hours from the time of amniocentesis procedure.

If there are any questions, the healthcare provider or patient should contact Biocell Center at 1-781-391-2040 or e-mail: info@biocellcenter.com



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