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Thawing stem cells

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Cord blood is a rich source of hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors cells, and cord blood transplantation has been used to treat both malignant and non-malignant disorders. In the Early Edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* Broxmeyer *et al.* report analysis of the efficiency of recovery of stem cells from cord blood after 15 years of cryopreservation (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2002, 10.1073/pnas.0237086100). Extended freezing periods appeared to have no adverse effects on the recovery of progenitor populations or their renewal and proliferative capacities in culture. Furthermore, CD34⁺ cells isolated from cord blood were able to repopulate the hematopoietic system *in vivo*, when injected into sublethally irradiated non-obese diabetic (NOD)/severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mice.

References

1. Hematopoietic reconstitution in a patient with Fanconi's anemia by means of umbilical-cord blood from an HLA-identical sibling.
2. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, [<http://www.pnas.org>]