

TAKING PART IN RESEARCH USING THE AFTERBIRTH
(PLACENTA) OR THE CORD OR THE CORD BLOOD

Oxfordshire Research Ethics Committee Study nos. C02.313, C02.361, C02.090, 05/Q1606/117 and 05/Q0108/367

Introduction

There are several research teams associated with the John Radcliffe Hospital that are investigating serious conditions - some that can occur during pregnancy and others that may affect all women and men. The link between these teams is that the research involves the afterbirth (placenta) or the baby's cord, which is left behind, or the blood that remains in the cord. All of these are usually discarded after delivery.

What is the purpose of this research?

The research being done includes work using the placenta or cord on problems such as premature labour and high blood pressure in pregnancy. The research on cord blood studies the way different types of cells are made in the body and this work can lead to better prevention or treatment of diseases such as cancer and heart disease.

What would I have to do?

You could assist this work by allowing us to use your placenta, cord blood cells or the cord itself for our research after you have had your baby. This would in no way interfere with the birth itself and the studies involved have been given Research Ethics Committee approval.

Will my donation be used for profit?

Most of the research is funded by the government or charities but some grants originate with commercial companies. However no tissue would be sold or used for commercial purposes. Likewise there would be no benefit financially to you or your child if you decide to help us with this research.

Would my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Some information relating to you and the donation may be stored on a secure database but the samples for research will not be identifiable to the researchers by your name or address.

What can I do now?

If you wish to express an interest in taking part please initial the box at the bottom of the page. This is not a consent form, it only indicates an interest. If you are approached to take part you will be given more information and asked to sign a consent form at the time.

Where can I obtain more information?

For work using placenta and cord tissue: Professor C.W.G. Redman 01865 221009
Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU

For work using cord blood cells: Cord Blood Collection Team 01865 447944
National Blood Service
Level 2, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9BQ

I am interested in donating my placenta and cord blood for research.

I understand by completing this form I am only indicating an interest.

Please Initial Box

Your Health in Pregnancy

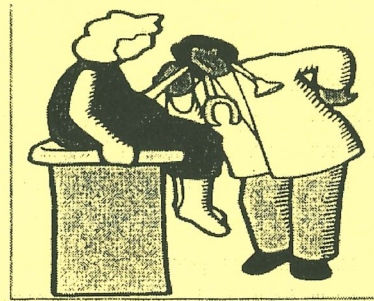
Many of the answers to queries you may have about your general health in pregnancy can be found in the Oxford University Trusts booklet or in the NHS Pregnancy book.

For most women pregnancy is a time of health and well-being however, you may suffer from a number of mild complications of pregnancy such as constipation and heartburn. Your midwife or GP will be able to offer advice or you can find information on these and a range of other conditions in the Oxford University Trusts booklet or in the NHS Pregnancy book.

Pregnancy Problems

It is important to be aware that some symptoms may suggest more serious pregnancy complications. If you experience any of the following you should contact your GP, Midwife or Hospital straight away.

- Stomach (abdominal pains)
- Vaginal bleeding
- Severe headaches
- Blurred vision
- Persistent itching
- Changed or reduced baby movements
- Membranes (waters) breaking



Pre-eclampsia

This is an illness that happens in pregnancy, it is usually mild but can be serious and affects you and your baby. Pre-eclampsia can make your blood pressure rise and lead on to more serious effects and it can stop your baby getting enough food and oxygen to grow properly. It is not caused by anything you do, by working when you are pregnant, worry or stress. Pre-eclampsia normally occurs in the second half of pregnancy and your midwife or GP will monitor your blood pressure and urine sample for signs of it developing.

What to look out for:

It can be associated with the following symptoms so it is important you are aware of these and contact your midwife, GP or hospital if you experience these:

- Bad headaches that do not go away
- Blurred vision, flashing lights or spots in front of your eyes
- Bad pain just below your ribs, especially on the right side.
- Sudden swelling of your hands, feet or face