

Headline	Cord blood , a new hope for Leukemia		
MediaTitle	Malaya		
Date	06 Oct 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	Living	Circulation	150,000
Page No	B7	Readership	150,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	143 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	n/a	AdValue	PHP 11,609
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	PHP 34,827



## Cord blood, a new hope for Leukemia

**M**AI Duong, a 34-year-old Vietnamese-Canadian mother is among the many patients diagnosed of cancer every four minutes. Leukemia - cancer of the body's tissues that are responsible for forming blood including bone marrow and lymphatic system is among the top eight common cancers in the Philippines.

Beyond the physical pain that leukemia patients experience, they are also susceptible to emotional stress and anxiety. And when it comes to the trauma and emotional pain, the patient's family is no exception. Studies showed that anxiety and posttraumatic stress are common to leukemia patients' families during and even after suffering from the condition.

But what gives the patients and their families a sense of hope for recovery is the life-saving effects of stem cell transplantation, including that from umbilical cord blood.

Like Duong, Ryan Foo is also among the many leukemia victims who conducted a nationwide search for bone marrow stem cells. Foo suffered from leukemia at a very young age and found hope of recovery after his baby sister, Rachel was born. Rachel's cord blood was collected and was processed and stored in Cordlife's cord blood banking facility. Ryan has been in remission following the successful transplantation in Singapore.

Recent researches have proven the life-saving effects of umbilical cord blood stem cells in many life-threatening diseases including leukemia. Comparing cord-blood transplants with current standard leukemia therapies, two new studies indicated that leukemia patients who require stem cell transplants but do not have bone marrow donors now have greater chances to proceed with the treatment through the use of umbilical cord blood cells.

"Cord blood opens the door to provide transplants to thousands of leukemia patients who otherwise would not get a transplant," said Mary J. Laughlin, M.D., of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center in Cleveland, in an article published by the Journal of National Cancer Institute.

With cord blood, there is faster identification of appropriate units for transplant. This is important since some conditions require urgent delivery and thus, delays are something medical providers aim to eliminate. Also, with cord blood, patients are more likely to get acceptable transplants because of the higher possibilities in the matching of donors.