

## PRESS RELEASE

# Cordlife Partners with Leading Neurologist on Study In Child Autism Using Own Cord Blood Stem Cells

### Key Points

- Cordlife partners with autism and epilepsy treatment pioneer, Dr Michael G. Chez from Sutter Medical Group and Sutter Neuroscience Institute to work with local physicians for similar treatment in Singapore.
- Investigation for child autism treatment will be carried out with patient's own (also known as autologous) cord blood stem cells.
- Pioneering FDA trial by Dr. Chez shows autologous cord blood stem cell infusions in children with autism are safe.
- Preliminary treatment inclusion criteria will include but not limited to:
  - (1) Patient's age possibly between 2 – 7 years old;
  - (2) Confirmed diagnosis of autistic disorder;
  - (3) Availability of patient's own cord blood unit stored at Cordlife with minimum 10 million total nucleated cells per kilogram body weight.

**Singapore, 18 March 2015** – Cordlife, a leading umbilical cord blood and cord lining banking service provider, partners with autism and epilepsy treatment pioneer Dr. Michael G. Chez from Sutter Medical Group, in the continued study to treat child autism with the patient's own cord blood stem cells.

Autism is a life-long developmental disorder that affects 1 in every 167 people in Singapore. With over 200 children diagnosed annually, there is a strong need to design an effective treatment option to enhance disease management and help patient improve their overall quality of life.

Cord blood that remains in the umbilical cord and placenta following the birth of a newborn is a rich source of hematopoietic stem cells, which have proven useful in the treatment of over 80 diseases including certain cancers and blood disorders. Compared to stem cells from other sources such as bone marrow, cord blood contains the youngest cells that can be safely collected, presenting a potentially viable option in treating autism in children.

This feasible possibility played a central role in the FDA trial pioneered by Dr. Chez, with the purpose of evaluating safety and efficacy of autologous (patient's own) cord blood stem cell infusion in patients with autism. Data compiled after a year-long follow-up period showed that autologous cord blood infusions in children are safe. Efficacy results of the study will be reported once the study is completed.

“My working partnership with Cordlife was based upon my research interest in childhood autism and the global need for advancing treatment in autism. Cordlife, being the pioneer in Singapore that operates the largest network of quality cord blood banks in Asia, allows me to advance my research with physicians both in Singapore and other Asian countries to help improve the quality of life in patients with autism,” says Dr. Chez.

Amongst the first in Asia with over 14 years of cord blood banking experience, Cordlife was the first private cord blood bank in Singapore to release a cord blood unit to support a sibling transplant for the treatment of leukaemia in 2002. In 2009, the Company worked with neurosurgeon Dr Keith Goh to enable the first-ever stem cell infusion for cerebral palsy treatment in Singapore.



“There are many researches carried out in the world investigating the use of stem cells for regenerative medicine and cellular therapies. To date, most of these therapies require the patients’ own stem cells. Once these advances translate to successful therapies, any family who has stored their child’s stem cells will have more medical options available to them,” commented Dr Tang Kin Fai, Deputy Laboratory Director of Cordlife.

“At Cordlife, aside from ensuring that our day-to-day operations meet the highest global quality standards for cord blood banking, we play our part to advance treatment availability in Singapore by working with world-renowned medical experts such as Dr. Chez. We are hopeful that cord blood stem cells will contribute positively in the treatment of various medical conditions including childhood autism,” said Dr Tang.

Other than being a perfect match for the child, cord blood stem cells is also a ready source of genetically-related stem cells for someone else in the family, especially the child’s siblings. This exponentially increase the chance of having a matched unit available for future medical use.

Dr Chez is currently working with Cordlife to identify physicians in Singapore to perform pioneering use of the patient’s own cord blood stem cells for the treatment of childhood autism. More information of the treatment will be released once these physicians have been identified. Preliminary treatment inclusion criteria will include but not limited to the patient’s age possibly between 2 to 7 years old, confirmed diagnosis of autistic disorder and availability of the patient’s own cord blood unit stored at Cordlife with a minimum of 10 million total nucleated cells per kilogram body weight. All enquiries relating to this potential treatment option can be directed to [therapy@cordlife.com](mailto:therapy@cordlife.com).

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#### **ABOUT CORDLIFE GROUP LIMITED (Bloomberg stock code: CLGL SP)**

Incorporated in May 2001, Cordlife Group Limited (“Cordlife”) is a multi-product healthcare company catering to the mother and child segment and a leading cord blood and cord lining banking services provider. Today, Cordlife operates the largest private cord blood banks in Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia; and is amongst the top three market leaders in Hong Kong and India. Cordlife also holds 10% and 31.81% stakes in China Cord Blood Corporation and StemLife Berhad respectively, both of which are the countries’ largest cord blood bank operators. For more information, please visit [www.cordlife.com](http://www.cordlife.com).

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