



# Newsbites

April 2014

## BabyCell gives you a reason to smile. Join us in the fight against Haemophilia

### Definition

Haemophilia is a medical condition in which the ability of the blood to clot is severely reduced, causing the sufferer to bleed severely from even a slight injury. The condition is typically caused by a hereditary lack of a coagulation factor, most often factor VIII.

### Incidence

India has over 100,000 haemophilia patients(2013).<sup>(1)</sup> Males are more prone to this condition than females.

### Causes

Haemophilia is caused by an inherited genetic mutation. It mainly affects males due to the way it's passed from a parent to their child.

### Symptoms

The symptoms of haemophilia vary depending on how severe the condition is, but the main sign is prolonged bleeding. The severity of the condition is determined by the level of clotting factors in the blood:

**Mild haemophilia** – where someone has between 5 and 50% of the normal amount of clotting factors. The condition usually only becomes apparent after a significant wound, surgery, or a dental procedure.

**Moderate Haemophilia** – where someone has between 1 and 5% of the normal amount of clotting factors. Apart from the symptom that these children bruise easily, they may also have internal bleeding around their joints, particularly if they have a knock or a fall. If a joint bleed is not treated, it can lead to:

- More severe joint pain.
- Stiffness.
- The site of the bleed becoming hot, swollen and tender.

**Severe Haemophilia** – where someone has less than 1% of the normal amount of clotting factors. The symptoms of severe haemophilia are similar to those of moderate haemophilia. However, joint bleeding is more frequent and severe.

Children with severe haemophilia have spontaneous bleeding. This means that they start bleeding for no apparent reason. Spontaneous bleeding can take the form of nosebleeds, bleeding gums, joint bleeds and muscle bleeding.

Without treatment, people with severe haemophilia can develop:

- Joint deformity, which may require replacement surgery.
- Soft tissue bleeding, which could lead to further complications.
- Serious internal bleeding.<sup>(2)</sup>

### Treatment

There are no treatments to completely cure Haemophilia. However the condition can be controlled with timely treatment and care. Haemophilia is treated by replacing the missing clotting factor in the blood. This is done by injecting a product that contains the needed factor into a vein. Bleeding stops when enough clotting factor reaches the bleeding site. This could be in the form of preventive or on-demand treatment.

### Treatment through stem cells

Haemophilia A remains a prime candidate for haematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) therapy which are the most routinely transplanted adult stem cells. In Haemophilia, cell therapy approaches have been based mainly on transplantation of healthy cells in order to restore alterations in coagulation factor expression. In one of the studies, patient suffering from mild Haemophilia A and malignant infantile osteopetrosis has undergone successful umbilical cord blood transplantation. Umbilical cord blood transplantation resulting in effective prophylaxis against bleeding without any complications.<sup>(3)</sup>

### Coping with Haemophilia

There are ways to avoid excessive bleeding and to protect joints. These include regular exercise, avoiding certain medications (such as aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and blood thinners such as heparin), practicing good dental hygiene, and protecting against injuries that can cause bleeding by wearing proper padding and practising proper safety when engaging in physical or dangerous activities.

### References:

1. <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/hemophilia>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hemophilia/facts.html>
2. <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Haemophilia>
3. David Buchbinder et al; Successful cord blood transplantation in a patient with malignant infantile osteopetrosis and hemophilia. *Pediatric Transplantation*. Volume 17, Issue 1, pages E20–E24, February 2013

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## Keep in touch

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You have the power to  
**Save a Life,**  
before it's too late

### Make a Contribution Today!



7 year old Aastha Bane is suffering from Thalassemia Major since birth. Doctors stated that she needs immediate treatment before it's too late.

The cord blood transplantation for her treatment will be conducted in Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune. The estimated cost of the treatment is ₹18,00,000/- (Eighteen lakhs rupees).

Your support and little help can bring a smile on Aastha's face who is battling with a life-threatening illness. You can directly transfer the donation amount into an account created by Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune in the name of "Grant Medical Foundation".

### Details are as follows:

Bank : Axis Bank Ltd.

Account no. :073010100001076

IFSC code : UTIB0000073

Please Note: Don't forget to mention "Registration No. 1450121" in description / narration.

In case of any query, please call Mr. Sameer Bane (father) Mob No: +91-9167011258.

## April Offer



**BabyCell**  
presents

## NO ORDINARY PREMIUM PACK

- Personalised Mummy & Tummy by US trained Specialist
- Featuring • New Born Genetic Screening
- Father's Wellness Program by Thyrocare

EXPECT  
MORE  
THIS APRIL

## Events

BabyCell celebrates Women's Day with mass awareness camps, held across India on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.



ANC in Bangalore



ANC in Bangalore



Stem Cell Awareness program at DCB Bank, Mumbai



ANC in Nashik



Women's day event, Nashik



Gold Coin Winner, Mumbai