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## IVF CHILDREN ARE TWICE AS PRONE TO HEALTH DISEASES

Mumbai

After fertility treatments culminate into a successful pregnancy, couples often look to ways in which they may guard against a child's future health issues. Saving your child's "cord blood" through cord blood banking may help in this endeavour.

Typically, the umbilical cord and placenta are routinely discarded after birth; however, in recent years, more and more parents are storing the cord blood because of its potentially life-saving properties. Collecting cord blood is the only opportunity parents will have to save stem cells from their child's birth.

"For parents who conceived their children via in vitro fertilization (IVF) using anonymous egg donors or sperm donors, banking cord blood has several advantages. This may be only

### CORD BLOOD BANKING CAN HELP CURE OVER 80 DISEASES

option to secure genetically-related stem cells for a child when the medical history of the egg or sperm donor is incomplete," says Dr. Dr. Raman Patel, Director & Head (IVF Department) at Sunflower Women's Hospital –Ahmedabad.

These stored stem cells from the cord blood be used in the future for disease and injury treatment, both in transplant medicine and regenerative medicine spanning over treatment for 80 diseases such as leukemia and lymphomas, other cancers like brain tumors or renal cell carcinoma, bone marrow failure disorders, hemoglobin disorders such as sickle cell disease, inherited metabolic disorders, and inherited immune system disorders.

The process itself is a painless and simple, one that

is rapidly gaining importance globally and in India.

In Gujarat, already one of the fast growing cord blood banking companies - Babycell has commenced providing revolutionary and effective processing and preservation through a network of several primary, secondary and tertiary hospitals in Gujarat. Some of the hospitals that are a part of this network include.

Apart from stem cell banking, Babycell™ also allows its entrusted parents and children to enjoy value-added services such as healthy mother awareness programs and newborn screening test which helps determine over 55 metabolic disorders at a nascent stage, breastfeeding awareness sessions at their door step.

"Due to this fast paced life, a lot of couples today

face trouble in conceiving, thus IVF has become a common phenomenon, but what parents need to bear in mind is the fact that the treatment stems from an unknown donor and thus, it becomes even more important for them to safeguard the health of their child via banking the cord blood", adds Dr. Praful Doshi, MD, Gynecologist, Me & Mummy Hospital – Surat.

Dr. Satyen Sanghavi, Chief Scientific Officer, Babycell says, "The incidence of sickle cell and other blood disorders is relevantly high in Gujarat. We at Babycell aim at educating the residents of Gujarat and helping them easily bank their cord blood to avoid and overcome several diseases that the child may develop in the future."