

Current status and prospects of the commercial storage of adult stem cells and gametes in Russia

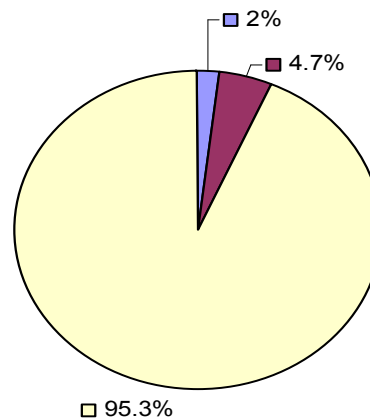
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Cord blood bank "CryoCenter", Moscow, Russia

The first commercial cord blood banks including "CryoCenter" became operational in Moscow in 2003. On the whole there are 6 such banks in Russia now. The facilities are located in Moscow, Sent Petersburg and Samara. Though unknown, the total amount of cord blood samples is estimated to be between 3000 and 5000. Substantial part of the samples was shipped from the Far Eastern region of Russia. The Far Eastern office of "CryoCenter" carried out a survey. Totally 300 of respondents (169 women and 131 men of age from 20 to 45) were questioned. Willingness to store their children's cord blood or/and their gametes expressed 2% and 8,33% of the respondents respectively. When respondents were hypothetically offered a potential treatment involving stem cells, at the expense of a storing company, the corresponding figures changed to 4,7% and 14,7%.

Conclusions:

1. There is a substantial demand for the personal storage of adult stem cells and/or gametes among Russian population.
2. Combining the storage of biological material with insurance policy may attract additional clients.
3. It makes sense for insurance companies to consider the storage of stem cells and gametes as a new field of interest.

Cord blood SC storage



Gametes storage

