



## Preserving amniotic fluid in pregnancy

*MomCentral.com*

*By: Allison Parker*

*February 7, 2011*

Recently, there has been much discussion among new moms over the preservation of their baby's cord blood for cell preservation. While the banking of the cells comes with a cost, the opportunity to use the cells for future use and treatment will prove invaluable. Last week, I had the opportunity to learn about a procedure that provides a choice of preserving stem cells to Moms and their babies. By banking amniotic fluid through preservation centers such as the Biocell Center, these cells can be used to treat diseases such as MS and stroke, or grow to treat injuries such as repairing tissues or organs like cartilage, skin, or bones.

I spoke with Dr. Kate Torchilin, CEO of the Biocell Center, about the differences and benefits of banking amniotic fluid versus cord blood. While similar in intention, Dr. Torchilin told me how amniotic fluid can be taken more easily than cord blood from prenatal tests and is not a separate procedure as is cord blood banking.

The amniotic fluid samples can be taken as early as the second trimester, not just at the time of delivery. The cells are taken and stored in liquid nitrogen, lasting for decades until needed. In terms of cost, amniotic fluid banking costs less than cord blood banking. At the Biocell Center, the first year fee is \$1,650 and \$120 per year after that. The center also works with every family regardless of ability to pay.

The Biocell Center partnered with HealthyWomen.org to provide educational material to Moms thinking about the process about the importance of preservation and what questions they should ask when talking to their doctors. Visit the Healthy Women website for more information, articles, and tips.

<http://www.momcentral.com/blogs/mama-mimi-mom-central/preserving-amniotic-fluid-pregnancy>