

## **The first successful transplantation of stem cells preserved in a Hungarian private stem cell bank**

**Stem cells preserved in a Hungarian private stem cell bank have saved life for the first time. A 22-month-old little girl was successfully operated two month ago in Miskolc. The transplanted stem cells – preserved and prepared for the operation in the Krio Institute – were extracted from the umbilical cord blood of the girl's younger brother.**

The girl having been operated was diagnosed with leukemia in December 2009. The treatment interrupted many times due to serious infections had last for half a year without any result. Finally, stem cells extracted from the umbilical cord blood of the girl's younger brother gave hope for recovery. The sample preserved and frozen at minus 190 Celsius degree in Hungary's oldest and biggest stem cell bank, the Krio Institute was examined and found suitable for transplantation by the National Committee on Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation For Children. The extraction and preservation of the stem cells were provided free of charge for the girl's family as part of the Pro-Família program of the Krio Institute.

Stem cells professionally extracted and preserved properly are suitable for the regeneration of the bone marrow. The transplantation took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 after the diseased bone marrow substance had been totally destroyed. The stem cells transplanted into the body of the diseased girl – into the bone marrow and, through this, her blood – generated healthy cells which had no malignant mutation thus giving a chance for permanent recovery. The first new, healthy cells were detected in the girl's blood two weeks after the surgical intervention, that is the girl's recovery got underway as therapists stated. The two-month period having passed since then gives enough hope for the girl's complete and permanent recovery.

At the moment, mostly various kinds of leukemia are treated with stem cells in Hungary. Although there have been many successful transplantations in Hungary, stem cells preserved in a Hungarian private cell bank were first used in the one taking place two month ago in Miskolc, in the Infant Oncohematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Department.

The FamiCord Group, the parent company of Krio Institute is one of the biggest stem cell bank networks in Europe that has already preserved and prepared stem cells for five successful surgical interventions in Central and Eastern Europe including the one in Hungary.

Further information:

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### ***About Krio Institute***

*The Krio Institute Cell and Tissue Bank is Hungary's oldest and biggest stem cell bank preserving 9500 samples and conducting more than two thousand blood drawings a year. It is the first service provider receiving licence for freezing and preserving stem cells in Hungary. The institute is a member of the FamiCord Group, one of the biggest stem cell bank networks in Europe preserving a total number of 37 000 stem cells. In 2010, Krio Institute was the first in Hungary and the fourth in Europe to be accredited by AABB (American Association of Blood Banks), an international association representing individuals and institutions involved in the field of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies. By the accreditation the preparation, freezing and preservation technology applied by the Krio Institute had been internationally accepted.*