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New data from a report by physicians at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, Ill., shows that a child with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) can be treated with a lifesaving infusion of the child's own umbilical cord blood. The case, which is published in the January issue of *Pediatrics*, marks the world's first documented case in which a child with this disease served as his own cord blood donor.

The 6-year-old patient was diagnosed in 2003 with ALL, the most common childhood cancer, and began chemotherapy treatment. The child went into remission, but 10 months later the cancer returned and spread to the patient's spine, signaling that the leukemia was particularly aggressive.

The patient was treated with a more aggressive chemotherapy protocol and full-body radiation. Although potential family donors for a blood transfusion or bone marrow transplant were not a match, the parents had saved and stored the child's umbilical cord blood, which contains hematopoietic stem cells, which were used to treat the patient. Two-and-a-half years after the procedure, the child is still in remission.

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