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## [Umbilical Cord Blood Used in Treating Cerebral Palsy](#)

by Jonathan Serrie

When Zoey Komninos was born, her mother Melanie wanted to pay a private laboratory to store blood from her baby's umbilical cord. The newborn's father balked at the cost.

"We argued about it," Jimmy Komninos said. "I said no. And she was so persistent."

Ultimately, mother prevailed. Three years later, physicians at Duke Children's Hospital at Duke University Medical Center are studying whether Zoey's umbilical cord blood can help reduce symptoms of her cerebral palsy.

Today, we're doing live shots as a follow up to a taped segment that aired on Sunday evening's Fox Report. (Click on the video to watch).

Our story focuses on two major issues — first, the science behind the treatment and, secondly, the pros and cons of private cord blood storage, which can cost a family upwards of \$2-thousand in startup fees alone for an unlikely need.

While private blood storage may not be for everyone, Melanie Komninos likened it to an insurance policy that gives her peace of mind, and her daughter a glimmer of hope for some improvement in her quality of life.