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Abstract
This research firstly reviews what the prevailing principles that have been laid down in modern medical ethics can be applied to the current situation of umbilical cord blood preservation in Taiwan. By means of case study, this research also attempts to examine the ethical concerns facing private banking and public banking with respect to umbilical cord blood preservation. The result demonstrates that the depository system of umbilical cord blood in Taiwan is almost identical to the one practiced in the bone marrow system, i.e. patients may search for matching sample in the anonymous database by means of random sampling. However, the practice of private banking can only initiate under a contract which terms and conditions are drafted by the agent and must be subsequently agreed by both parties of the contract before any sampling activities being executed. Depositing umbilical cord blood in a public bank may give rise to controversial interference of the authority in issues such as private genetic information management, protection of patient’s privacy and the derived property right out of the resulted medical benefits. It is likely agreed that private preservation is more advantageous than public one in that it would not be a problem for personal use should the donor have to seek for matching blood stem cells in the future when needed.
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- advisor

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