Attention Tooth Fairies

Donate newly lost teeth for cell research

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

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New research at the University of Tennessee shows that nerve cells can be grown from the dental pulp of teeth after they fall out.

Nerve cells are the key cells that function in the brain. In some children, these cells are affected by a missing section of chromosome 22. This missing section called the 22q11.2 deletion can lead to many serious health problems.

Your child's lost teeth may be the key to understanding how the deletion affects these important cells.

Taking part is easy:

1. Obtain a kit (see below).
2. Give information about your child's genetic syndrome (all information is kept private).
3. When a tooth is lost or extracted by the dentist, drop it in the container provided. Ship it in the prepaid envelope within 48 hours.

Don't throw away those lost teeth! If you take part in this program you might help researchers develop new treatments for patients with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome.

Dr. Lawrence T. Reiter at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis is conducting a research study to find out if nerve cells can be grown from the dental pulp of people with various neurogenetic syndromes. Some of these syndromes include duplicate chromosomes and deletions (missing parts) of human chromosome 15q and 22q (DiGeorge Syndrome).

To help with this research, you must answer several questions in writing about your child's genetic status.

Dr. Reiter will provide a tube of cell growth solution and a prepaid return envelope to you at no cost. If you agree to take part, you will only need to provide a fresh tooth, either extracted or one that fell out on its own. The tooth should be placed in the cell growth solution and mailed right away. The tooth must arrive at Dr. Reiter's laboratory no more than 48 hours after the time it came out of the mouth.

To request a kit or learn more about taking part, please call Dr. Reiter at 901-448-2635 or 619-520-2529 or email him at *lreiter@uthsc.edu*. You will need to confirm that your child has the 22q11.2 deletion before Dr. Reiter sends you a kit.