

Failing to strike a Cord

Lack of government regulations, paucity of funds and poor awareness about stem cell preservation have kept India's count of stem cell samples abysmally low compared to developed markets

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INDIA'S stem cell banking industry has seen a mushrooming of companies in the past five years. Awareness about this particular branch of science amongst people on the whole has not helped industry growth, and a lack of conviction on the part of the medical fraternity has not helped either. Paucity of funds and the over-riding pessimism around stem cell therapies together with lack of government regulations have all come together to ensure that stem cell storage penetration has been as low as 0.1% of total births a year, compared to 4% of the same in US and 1% of births in Europe.

The industry, currently estimated at Rs 150 crore and grow-

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