

A nurturing start

Your body is extraordinary. You started life and grew into a baby, nurtured through the umbilical cord that connected you to the placenta.

The umbilical cord supports a growing baby by bringing food and oxygen, and getting rid of waste. The image shows a cross-section of the umbilical cord. The top oval reveals a vein, which brings oxygenated blood containing nutrients for growth, while the two circular structures are arteries, which take away waste. The outside layer of the cord is made of smooth muscle, while inside tissue helps protect the life-enabling vein and arteries.

Add colour to these structures that helped nurture and develop you. Use any colours you wish. Pathologists can look at these structures to help understand if there are any problems, while donations of stem cells (cells that have not yet become specialised) can be valuable to help others.

The bar at the bottom represents one centimetre.



Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology
Umbilical cord tissue

