

### Two-part transplant helps people with Hodgkin lymphoma

Hodgkin lymphoma, a blood cancer, sometimes comes back after the first treatments. In this case, a blood or marrow transplant (BMT) can help. Splitting the transplant into two doses of cells with more medicines may help people live longer than giving one transplant, a review of two studies showed.

Researchers studied autologous transplants. An autologous transplant uses your own blood-forming cells, which have been collected and stored. Next, you take chemo to kill cancer cells. Then, you get the transplant of your cells through an intravenous catheter, or IV.

This study involved 89 people who had Hodgkin lymphoma that had not gotten better with treatment.

Then, for the study, the people got a high dose of chemo called melphalan, plus half of their blood-forming cells. After 1-2 months, they got a different chemo, plus radiation therapy if possible, and the second half of their cells. This type of two-part transplant is called a tandem transplant.

Researchers compared this new study of tandem transplants with an earlier study of single transplants. The studies involved different groups of people with Hodgkin lymphoma.

The amount of people who had no signs of lymphoma two years after transplant was:

- 63% of people who got tandem transplants in the new study
- 45% of people who got a single transplant in an earlier study

#### Keep in mind

Most people in the study had side effects from chemo or radiation.

#### Consider asking your doctor

If you are considering a transplant, you might ask:

- What type of transplant would be best for me?
- What are the risks and possible benefits of transplant, as well as other treatments?

### Learn more about

- [This research study from its publication](#)
- [This research study on ClinicalTrials.gov](#)
- [Hodgkin lymphoma](#)

### Source

EP Smith, Li H, Friedberg JW, et al. Tandem autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation for patients with primary progressive or recurrent Hodgkin lymphoma: A SWOG and Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network phase II Trial (SWOG S0410/BMT CTN 0703). *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation: Journal of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation*. 2018 Apr 24; 24(4): 700-707. doi:10.1016/j.bbmt.2017.12.798. Epub 2017 Dec 28

### About this research summary

Ground-breaking research into blood and marrow transplant is happening every day. That research is having a significant impact on the survival and quality of life of thousands of people. But the research is written by scientists for scientists. By providing research news in an easy-to-understand way, patients, caregivers, and families have access to useful information that can help them make treatment decisions.

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