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Research News (accessible version)

Blood and marrow transplant can cure sickle cell disease

Most people who live for 2 years or longer after their blood or marrow transplant (BMT) are cured of their disease and can expect to live for many more years.

That's according to new research on BMT and sickle cell disease.

Although BMT can cure sickle cell disease, it also may have serious complications.

Researchers said that for people with sickle cell disease who have lived for at least 2 years after BMT:

- Long-term survival is excellent for those who lived for at least 2 years after their BMT.
- If you have had a stroke or have to be admitted to the hospital often to manage your disease, then it is better to have a BMT sooner than later.
- Your best donor is a tissue-matched brother or sister. Other donors also extend your life, but you may have more complications from BMT,

That's according to a study of 950 people who got BMT in the US during 2000 to 2017 and lived for 2 years or longer after their BMT. Researchers observed people for an average of 7 years after BMT.

Researchers say that **BMT is a good treatment for sickle cell disease if you have had a stroke or need to be admitted to the hospital from complications such as pain or chest crisis**.

It's also important for people to keep getting yearly checkups, even years after BMT.

Keep in mind

There are several types of sickle cell disease. This study included only 2 types: hemoglobin SS disease and hemoglobin S beta thalassemia.

There are other treatments for sickle cell disease. Ask your doctor about your options and possible benefits and harms.

Learn more about

- **Sickle cell disease by Be The Match**
- **Clinical trials for sickle cell disease by Jason Carter Clinical Trials Search & Support**
- **More study summaries at CIBMTR.org**

Source

StMartin A, Hebert KM, Serret-Larmande A, et al. Long-term survival after hematopoietic cell transplant for sickle cell disease compared to the United States population. Transplantation and Cellular Therapy. 2022. Epub 2022/03/19. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2022.03.014.

About this plain-language summary

This information is provided on behalf of the Consumer Advocacy Committee of the CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®). The CIBMTR is a research collaboration between the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match® and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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This plain-language summary was written by Jennifer Motl at the Medical College of Wisconsin and reviewed by an author of the full article.