

Second blood or marrow donation may have fewer cells

Some people who donate blood or marrow cells twice in 1 year may not be able to give as many cells the second time.

That's from a study of 560 people who donated twice. The study covered the donations given during 2006 to 2017.

Donating twice is rare

Blood or marrow transplant (BMT) can cure leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell disease and other disorders. Although thousands of people sign up to donate blood and marrow cells, fewer than 1% of them are matched with a patient. And even fewer blood or marrow donors are asked to donate twice.

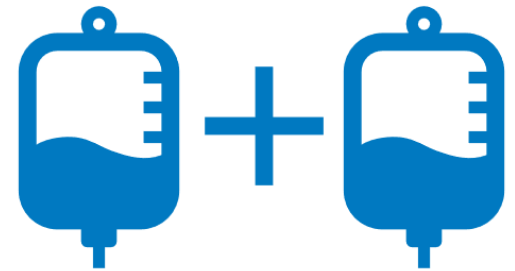
Sometimes the second donation is smaller

Bone marrow naturally replaces itself within 4 to 6 weeks. But the study showed that the second donation sometimes gave fewer cells, when:

- the two donations were less than a year apart,
- the donor lost a lot of weight between donations (not related to donation),
- or the donor did not give a lot of cells the first time.

What's next

Researchers said that instead of asking people to donate twice in a year, it may help to find a different donor. If no other matched donor is found, then doctors may give the donor an extra shot (injection) to increase their blood and marrow cells. The shot is called granulocyte colony-stimulating factor, or G-CSF.



Learn more about

- Donation FAQs at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)
- Donor safety and support at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)
- More study summaries at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)

About this research summary

This information is provided on behalf of the Consumer Advocacy Committee of the CIBMTR[®] (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research[®]).

Source

Panch SR, Logan B, Sees JA, [Shorter interdonation interval contributes to lower cell counts in subsequent stem cell donations](#). *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*. 2021 Jun;27(6):503.e1-503.e8. Epub 2021 Mar 9. PMC8217152. doi:10.1016/j.jtct.2021.03.008.

