

## Half-matched donors help more people with MDS get transplants

### Both matched, unrelated people and half-matched relatives can donate



A new study shows that blood and marrow transplant (BMT) from a **half-matched donor** is a good option. This news helps people who don't have a closely matched donor.

Previous studies have shown that BMT from a closely matched donor can help people with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) live longer. MDS is a type of blood cancer.

However, about 70% of people with MDS don't have a closely matched donor on a registry.

This study especially helps people who are:

- Black or African American;
- Asian;
- American Indian or Alaska Native;
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander;
- more than one race;
- and Hispanic or Latino people of all races.

These people are less likely than non-Hispanic White people to have a match on a registry.

People who can't find a closely matched donor may use a half-matched (or **haploidentical**) donor. A parent and child is always a half-match, and sometimes a brother or sister is, too.

The study included 600 people with MDS. Their BMT donors were **either closely matched, unrelated people or half-matched relatives**.

Two (2) years after transplant, **people were equally likely to be alive**, whether they had fully or half-matched donors.

Using half-matched relatives allows more people with MDS to receive BMT.

## Keep in mind

This study looked only at BMT with bone marrow or peripheral blood, not cord blood. More research is needed.

## Learn more about

- **MDS at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)**
- **Clinical trials for MDS at [CTsearchsupport.org](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov)**
- **More study summaries at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)**

## Source

Grunwald MR, Zhang M-J, Elmariah H, et al. [Alternative donor transplantation for myelodysplastic syndromes: Haploidentical relative and matched unrelated donors](#). Blood Advances. 2021 Feb 23; 5(4):975-983. Epub 2021 Feb 12. PMC7903230. doi:10.1182/bloodadvances.2020003654.

## About this research summary

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

Learn more at [cibmtr.org](https://www.cibmtr.org).

