

## **Abatacept makes blood and marrow transplant safer**

### **Medicine for acute graft-versus-host disease helps more people get BMT**



The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved abatacept as the first medicine to prevent acute graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). GVHD is sometimes a serious side effect of allogeneic blood and marrow transplant (BMT). It can affect the skin, liver, stomach and intestines.

BMT can cure leukemia, lymphoma, and some other diseases. A close match between the person and their donor, meaning the blood and marrow cells are very similar, makes GVHD less likely. In the past, people who did not have a closely matched sibling donor needed a closely matched unrelated donor.

However, not everyone has a closely matched unrelated donor. (People of color are more likely to have a partially matched rather than closely matched unrelated donor.) Using abatacept to prevent GVHD may mean that more people can get life-saving BMT, even with a partially matched donor.

The FDA approved abatacept for GVHD in part based on real-world evidence from the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR). More than 330 transplant centers worldwide report to the CIBMTR.

Researchers observed about 200 people who got partially matched unrelated donor BMT, and 400 people who got closely matched unrelated donor BMT, for leukemia, lymphoma or myelodysplastic syndromes. The people also got either abatacept or other medicines to prevent GVHD.

About 6 months after BMT, people who got abatacept were more likely to be alive than those who did not.

Results were similar if people got a partially matched or closely matched unrelated donor BMT.

### Keep in mind

FDA approved abatacept for people aged 2 and older who get BMT from an unrelated donor.

### What's next

Ask your doctor about the best treatment for you.

### Learn more about

- **GVHD basics at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)**
- **Your data may save lives at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)**
- **More study summaries at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)**
- **Clinical trials at [CTSearchSupport.org](https://www.ctsearchsupport.org)**

### Source

Kean LS, Burns LJ, Kou TD, et al. Improved overall survival of patients treated with abatacept in combination with a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate following allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: Analysis of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research Database. Tandem Meetings | Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings of ASTCT and CIBMTR; 2022.

### Sponsors

Bristol Myers Squibb sponsored the study. BMS makes abatacept, also called Orencia. The Medical College of Wisconsin created this summary.

### About the CIBMTR

The CIBMTR is a nonprofit research collaboration of the National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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

