

Half-matched BMT better than cord blood in some cases

Fully matched donors still the first choice for blood and marrow transplant



Blood and marrow transplant (BMT) can cure acute leukemia and lymphoma.

There are 3 sources for BMT: bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cells, and umbilical cord blood. These can come from fully matched or half-matched donors. A new study shows that for a person with leukemia or lymphoma, **if a fully matched donor is not available, a half-matched donor is better than umbilical cord blood.**

This news is especially important for people of color, who are less likely to have a fully matched donor on the registry.

This study included about 1,300 people who had acute leukemia or lymphoma and got BMT during 2012-2018. All the people got reduced-intensity medicines before BMT.

After 5 years:

- About 40% of people who got cord blood were alive
- About 50% of people who got half-matched bone marrow or peripheral blood were alive

The study included equal amounts of men and women. Also, the people in the study had the same racial and ethnic diversity as all people in the US.

This study compared both real-world experiences of patients who were not in a clinical trial with patients in a clinical trial. Results were similar. This means that the study results may be true for most people.

Keep in mind

No study is perfect. If you have acute leukemia or lymphoma, ask your doctor:

- What are my treatment options?
- What are the possible benefits and harms of each treatment?
- What are the chances that I have a matching donor?

Learn more about

- [Matching patients & donors](#) at Be The Match
- [Leukemia clinical trials](#) at Jason Carter Clinical Trial Search and Support
- [Study summaries for patients](#) at the CIBMTR

Source

O'Donnell PV, Brunstein CG, Fuchs EJ, et al. Umbilical Cord Blood or HLA-Haploidentical Transplantation: Real-World Outcomes versus Randomized Trial Outcomes. *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*. 2021. Epub Nov 15 2021. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2021.11.002.

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Sponsor

Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network, 401 N. Washington St., Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20850; bmtctn@emmes.com or (301) 251-1161

About this research summary

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) is a collaboration of The Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research[®] (CIBMTR[®]); The Medical College of Wisconsin; The National Marrow Donor Program[®] /Be The Match[®]; and The Emmes Company[®].

Learn more at [BMTCTN.net](https://www.bmtctn.net)