

## Online tool helps predict liver problems after transplant prep

Now, doctors can better predict which people might get rare but serious liver problems after transplant preparation. Doctors can watch people closely and, if needed, treat those people sooner.

That's because researchers at CIBMTR created a free, online VOD Risk Calculator for doctors.

Veno-occlusive disease (VOD) is a rare liver problem that may happen after preparation for blood or marrow transplant (BMT). VOD affects up to 5 percent of people (up to 1 in 20) who get BMT.

To make the VOD Risk Calculator, scientists compared medical records of more than 13,000 people of all ages who had BMT. The scientists found:

- VOD is more common in some age groups, especially children aged 10 and younger.
- People who are too sick to carry out daily activities have a higher risk of VOD.
- The chance of VOD rises if a person had hepatitis B or certain diseases.
- A medicine called sirolimus, plus some transplant preparations, increases the risk of VOD.

To use the online VOD Risk Calculator, a person's doctor answers six questions about the areas above. The calculator predicts the person's chance of getting VOD in the first few months after transplant prep.

### VOD is a treatable liver problem

VOD may cause:

- Yellow eyes or skin
- Pain on right side of belly or ribs
- Fast weight gain
- Swelling of arms, legs, and belly

If you notice these problems, call your doctor right away. VOD can be treated.

### Consider talking with your doctor

The VOD Risk Calculator is not perfect. And it was made for doctors, not patients. You might ask your doctor: What is my chance of getting VOD? What can we do about it?

### Learn more about

- [This research, from its publication](#)
- [VOD Risk Calculator, from CIBMTR](#)
- [VOD in children, from About Kids Health](#)

*Continued next page*

*Continued from previous page*

**Source**

Strouse C, Zhang Y, Zhang M-J, et al. Risk score for development of veno-occlusive disease after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant. *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation: Journal of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation*. 2018 Oct; 24(10):2072-2080. doi:10.1016/j.bbmt.2018.06.013. Epub 2018 Jun 18. PMC6239945.

**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.