

Mismatched transplant still helpful 3 years later

Newer treatment for people who have leukemia, lymphoma, other blood cancers



Mismatched blood or marrow transplant (BMT) is a newer option that helps people survive blood cancers. That's according to a study of people 3 years after BMT.

Mismatched BMT could help more people get treated.

BMT from a fully matched donor is best. Fully matched means that the cells from the donor and the patient match fully.

A fully matched donor lowers the risk that the patient will get graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). GVHD can be a serious effect, where the donated cells attack the patient's cells, causing problems with their skin, lungs, digestion, and more.

However, many people with cancer do not have a fully matched donor. And recently, doctors found that a new way to prevent GVHD: a medicine called cyclophosphamide.

In a recent clinical trial, 80 people who did not have a fully matched donor got mismatched BMT instead. About half of them were people of color. All of the people had blood cancers, such as leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndromes and others. All of the people got BMT during 2016-2019. The people got 2 kinds of preparation for BMT: half of the people got reduced-intensity preparation, and half got myeloablative preparation.

Three (3) years after BMT, most people were still alive:

- 70% of people who got reduced-intensity preparation were still alive
- 62% of people who got myeloablative preparation were still alive

Researchers said these results were encouraging.

Keep in mind

BMT can have serious effects—it's important to ask your doctor about possible harms and benefits of all options.

What's next

This study was small, and needs to be repeated in a larger group of people.

Learn more about

- [How patients and donors are matched at BeTheMatch.org](#)
- [Clinical trials of mismatched BMT at CTsearchsupport.org](#)
- [More study summaries at CIBMTR.org](#)

Source

Shaw BE, Jimenez-Jimenez AM, Burns LJ, et al. [Three-Year Outcomes in Recipients of Mismatched Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Transplants Using Post-Transplantation Cyclophosphamide: Follow-Up from a National Marrow Donor Program-Sponsored Prospective Clinical Trial](#). *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*. 2023 Mar;29(3):208.e1-208.e6. Epub 2022 Dec 27. PMC9992261. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2022.12.017.

About this research summary

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This plain-language summary was written by Jennifer Motl at the Medical College of Wisconsin and reviewed by an author of the full article. © 2023 by CIBMTR, license [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).