

## More people get half-matched blood or marrow transplant

### New medicines allow more people to get treatment, including people of color



New medicines have helped people to get a life-saving blood or marrow transplant (BMT) even if they don't have a fully matched donor.

This helps more people of color get BMT. That's because people of color are less likely to have a fully matched donor. Now, anyone without a fully matched donor can use a mismatched donor.

There are 3 types of mismatched donors:

- Half-matched (haploidentical), usually a parent or child
- Mismatched, unrelated
- Umbilical cord blood

In the past, people who got mismatched donors did not live as long, often because they got a serious effect called graft-versus-host disease (GVHD).

Recently, doctors found better medicines to prevent GVHD. These medicines are cyclophosphamide and abatacept.

In the last 10 years, compared to the past, **more people got half-matched BMT** with cyclophosphamide medicine.

Although more White patients got BMT than patients of other races, **a higher percentage of people of color got half-matched or mismatched BMT**. That includes patients who were Black or African American, Hispanic, Asian and other races.

Finally, **people in all racial and ethnic groups are living longer after BMT** now than in the past.

## Keep in mind

Although BMT can cure leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell disease, and other problems, it can cause GVHD. And sometimes cancers come back (relapse).

## What's next

More research is needed to prevent relapse and GVHD and to overcome inequities in access to health care. The ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative aims to increase awareness for barriers to BMT and to help patients of all incomes and races receive BMT and achieve best outcomes after BMT.

## Learn more about

- [ASTCT-NMDP ACCESS Initiative](#) at PubMed.gov
- [Mismatched unrelated donors](#) at BeTheMatch.org
- [Mismatched](#) and [half-matched](#) BMT at CTsearchsupport.org

## Source

Auletta JJ, Kou J, Chen M, et al. [Real-World Data Showing Trends and Outcomes by Race and Ethnicity in Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation: A Report from the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research](#). *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*. 2023;29(6):346.e341-346.e310. Epub 2023/03/17. PMC10239334. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2023.03.007.

## About this research summary

CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®) is a research collaboration between the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match® and the Medical College of Wisconsin.



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