

For some people older than 50, transplant from young, matched donors is better than half-matched donors

**Study looked at ages and types of donors to treat
people with acute leukemia**

In this study, researchers learned that people older than 50 with acute leukemia live longer after a blood or marrow transplant (BMT) from a young, matched unrelated donor than from a half-matched family member.

For some people, BMT can cure acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

To choose a BMT donor, doctors try to match 8 genetic markers in a donor and patient. Sometimes it is hard to find a donor who matches all 8 markers. A person's parents and children are always a half-match, also called haploidentical or haplo. Sometimes siblings are a haplo match.

Some studies showed that BMT donors aged 18-40 are more helpful than older donors. And because family members of people older than 50 are likely to be older as well, scientists wondered if a haplo match worked as well for older people.

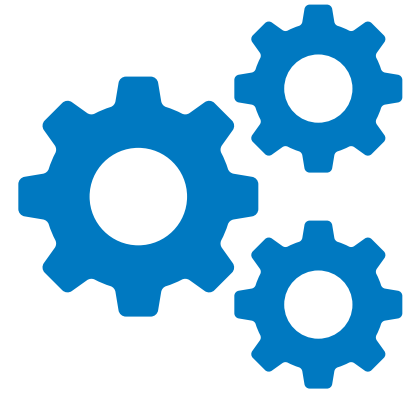
In this study, more than 800 people with AML, aged 50 to 75, got BMT with one of the following:

- Either a fully matched, unrelated donor, age 18-40
- Or, a haplo donor, age 16-69

Five years after BMT, about:

- 40% (4 out of 10) who had younger, matched, unrelated donors were alive
- 30% (3 out of 10) who had haplo donors were alive

So, for people older than 50 who have AML, doctors recommend matched, unrelated donors, aged 18-40, when possible. This study looked at data from 2008-2015 reported by about half of the hospitals that do transplant. More research is needed.



Learn more about

- [This research](#)
- [Haploidentical transplant, from BeTheMatch.org](#)
- [More study summaries at cibmtr.org](#)

About this research summary

This information is provided on behalf of the Consumer Advocacy Committee of the CIBMTR[®] (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research[®]).

Source

Perales MA, Tomlinson B, Zhang MJ, et al. Alternative donor transplantation for acute myeloid leukemia in patients aged \geq 50 years: young HLA-matched unrelated or haploidentical donor? *Haematologica*. Epub 2019May19. doi: 10.3324/haematol.2018.215202.

