

Blood and marrow transplants during COVID-19 pandemic

Experts advise new safety measures for patients and donors

People who need a life-saving blood or marrow transplant (BMT) need to be especially careful to avoid COVID-19.

So, a group of experts agreed on some ways to protect patients and donors from COVID-19.

For patients, pandemic brings COVID tests and fewer visitors

All patients should be screened for COVID-19. Preparing for BMT can weaken the patient's immune system for 6-12 months. If someone needs BMT right away due to rapidly failing health, doctors say they should get BMT.

However, some patients may delay BMT if:

- they don't need BMT urgently
- they test positive for COVID-19

While in the hospital for BMT, people should not have social visitors except in special cases. This reduces the risk of getting infected.

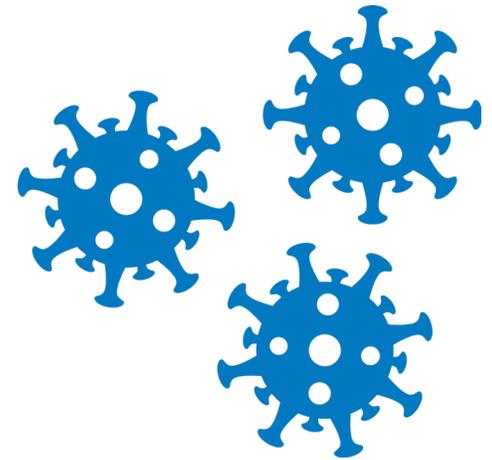
For donors, pandemic brings few changes

There is no evidence that the new coronavirus can be spread through BMT. However, donors may need to wait 28 days before donating if they test positive for COVID-19. If donors have close contact with someone with COVID-19, a doctor will assess the situation.

Frozen blood or marrow makes scheduling BMT more flexible

Also, depending on a patient's diagnosis, the doctor will decide if it is better to receive fresh or frozen blood or marrow.

Doctors also suggest a medicine, called G-CSF, which may help patients recover faster.



Learn more about

- [COVID and donors at WMDA](#)
- [COVID updates at BeTheMatchClinical.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

Algwaiz G, Aljurf M, Koh M, et al. [Real-World Issues and Potential Solutions in Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research Health Services and International Studies Committee](#). *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation*. 2020 Jul 24;S1083-8791(20)30454-7. doi: 10.1016/j.bbmt.2020.07.021. Epub ahead of print. PMC7380217.

