

## **New scoring tool helps children and teens with leukemia**

### **Tool forecasts how well blood and marrow transplant will work**



Researchers created a tool to help doctors choose the best treatments for children with leukemia. The tool is called the Pediatric Disease Risk Index.

Leukemia is a blood cancer. Blood and marrow transplant (BMT) can cure leukemia. But, BMT may have serious side effects. In the past, it was hard to know whether BMT or other treatments would be better for a child with leukemia.

To help, researchers studied the medical records of 2,500 children and teens. These young people had either:

- acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) or
- acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Researchers noticed patterns in which treatments worked best for different children. The researchers used statistics to create the new tool.

This simple tool that can be used by your doctor in clinic forecasts how likely it is that BMT will help, based on the child's:

- age at BMT,
- how well leukemia treatments have worked so far, and
- makeup of leukemia cells, called cytogenetics (pronounced si-toe-jeh-NET-iks).

If the tool suggests that BMT won't help a child, then they can get other treatments instead.

### **Keep in mind**

This tool can't guarantee that treatment will work. Like a weather forecast, the tool estimates the chance that BMT will help.

Also, the tool applies only to children with leukemia. More research is needed to help children with other diseases.

### Ask your doctor

- How might this Pediatric Disease Risk Index apply to my child?
- What are the possible treatments for my child?
- What are the possible harms and benefits?

### Learn more about

- **Transplant for children and teens at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)**
- **Clinical trials for leukemia at [CTsearchsupport.org](https://www.ctsearchsupport.org)**
- **More study summaries at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)**

### Source

Qayed M, Ahn KW, Kitko CL, et al. A validated pediatric disease risk index for allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation. *Blood*. Epub 2020 Nov 18. doi:10.1182/blood.2020009342.

### 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®). The CIBMTR is a research collaboration between the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match® and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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