

Half-matched donors help more people with MDS get transplants

Both matched, unrelated people and half-matched relatives can donate



A new study shows that blood and marrow transplant (BMT) from a **half-matched donor** is a good option. This news helps people who don't have a closely matched donor.

Previous studies have shown that BMT from a closely matched donor can help people with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) live longer. MDS is a type of blood cancer.

However, about 70% of people with MDS don't have a closely matched donor on a registry.

This study especially helps people who are:

- Black or African American;
- Asian;
- American Indian or Alaska Native;
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander;
- more than one race;
- and Hispanic or Latino people of all races.

These people are less likely than non-Hispanic White people to have a match on a registry.

People who can't find a closely matched donor may use a half-matched (or **haploidentical**) donor. A parent and child is always a half-match, and sometimes a brother or sister is, too.

The study included 600 people with MDS. Their BMT donors were **either closely matched, unrelated people or half-matched relatives**.

Two (2) years after transplant, **people were equally likely to be alive**, whether they had fully or half-matched donors.

Using half-matched relatives allows more people with MDS to receive BMT.

Keep in mind

This study looked only at BMT with bone marrow or peripheral blood, not cord blood. More research is needed.

Learn more about

- **MDS at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)**
- **Clinical trials for MDS at [CTsearchsupport.org](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov)**
- **More study summaries at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)**

Source

Grunwald MR, Zhang M-J, Elmariah H, et al. [Alternative donor transplantation for myelodysplastic syndromes: Haploidentical relative and matched unrelated donors](#). Blood Advances. 2021 Feb 23; 5(4):975-983. Epub 2021 Feb 12. PMC7903230. doi:10.1182/bloodadvances.2020003654.

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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