

## Current therapies prevent chronic GVHD equally well

### Better options needed to prevent graft-versus-host disease

Chronic graft-versus-host disease, or CGVHD, affects about half of people after blood or marrow transplant (BMT). CGVHD can be serious.

CGVHD can affect:

- digestive system
- eyes
- genitals
- joints and muscles
- lungs
- mouth
- skin and nails

Standard treatments don't prevent all cases of CGVHD. And using medicines for a long time may cause side effects.

A recent clinical trial compared 2 new short-term treatments against 1 standard long-term treatment. The new treatments were not better than the standard, but all 3 treatments had the same proportion of patients who were alive without cancer relapse or significant CGVHD.

The trial included 300 people in the US and Germany who had blood cancer, including either acute leukemia or myelodysplastic syndromes. Everyone got a BMT during 2015-2018 with a matched donor.

People randomly got 1 of these 3 treatments:

1. CD34-selected peripheral blood transplant
2. A medicine called cyclophosphamide, after bone marrow transplant
3. A standard, long-term combination of 2 medicines, tacrolimus and methotrexate, after bone marrow transplant

After 2 years, CGVHD was controlled similarly, and:

1. The CD34-selected transplant group members did not live as long as the other groups
2. The cyclophosphamide group had fewer relapses and lived as long the standard group
3. The standard treatment group members were less likely to die from complications.

### Keep in mind

Ask your doctor what is best for you.

### Learn more about

- GVHD signs and symptoms at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)
- CGVHD clinical trials at [CTSearchSupport.org](https://www.ctsearchsupport.org)
- More study summaries at [CIBMTR.org](https://www.cibmtr.org)



### Source

Luznik L, Pasquini MC, Logan B, et al. Randomized Phase III BMT CTN Trial of Calcineurin Inhibitor-Free Chronic Graft-Versus-Host Disease Interventions in Myeloablative Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation for Hematologic Malignancies. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. [Epub ahead of print] Epub 2021/12/03. doi: 10.1200/jco.21.02293.

### About this research summary

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) is a collaboration of The Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research® (CIBMTR®); The Medical College of Wisconsin; The National Marrow Donor Program® / Be The Match®; and The Emmes Company®.

### Clinical Trial ID

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