

BMT can treat blood cancers in people with HIV / AIDS

An early study shows that blood or marrow transplant (BMT) is as safe for people with HIV as for those without it.

People with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, have an above-average risk of getting blood cancers. Allogeneic (allo) BMT—using cells donated by another person—may cure blood cancers. But, it was not known if allo BMT was safe for people with HIV.

This study looked at 17 men with HIV who also had a blood cancer, such as:

- Acute leukemia
- Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)
- Lymphoma

All the men had hard-to-treat cancers that came back or did not get better after chemotherapy. So they got allo BMT in the US. About 2 years later, about half of the men with HIV were still alive. This rate is similar to people without HIV who had BMT for hard-to-treat cancers.

Also, in the men with HIV, after BMT, their immune systems recovered somewhat. HIV is a disease that harms the immune system, including T cells. About 1 year after transplant, the amount of T cells in the blood was similar to people without HIV who got BMT.

And in a few men, doctors couldn't find HIV in their blood. The men still took medicines to fight HIV, though.

Keep in mind

More research is needed. BMT may cause serious side effects, such as infections and graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). Some people are too sick to get BMT. Ask your doctor if BMT is an option for you.

Source

Ambinder RF, Wu J, Logan B, et al. Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant for HIV patients with hematologic malignancies: the BMT CTN-0903/AMC-080 trial. *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation*. doi: 10.1016/j.bbmt.2019.06.033. Epub 2019 July 8. PubMed PMID: 31279752.



Learn more about

- This study from its [publication](#) at CIBMTR.org
- This study on [ClinicalTrials.gov](#)
- Clinical trials to treat blood cancer and HIV from [JCCTP.org](#)

About this research summary

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) conducts research that helps thousands of people live longer and feel better.



BMT CTN Data Coordinating Center

Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research® • Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin • Clinical Cancer Center
9200 W. Wisconsin Avenue • Suite C5500 • Milwaukee, WI 53226 • 414-805-0700 • Fax: 414-805-0714