BMT CTN Research News

More possible donors means more patients can get transplant

Mismatched and half-matched transplants work well



A new study shows that more patients can safely get life-saving blood or marrow transplant (BMT).

BMT can cure blood diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell disease. But many patients do not have a closely matched donor. A new study showed that people with a partially matched donor did as well as those with a closely matched unrelated donor. This means more people can get BMT.

Donors may be family members or people who are not related to the patient. Most transplants use blood or marrow from a donor, but donated umbilical cord blood collected after a baby's birth also can be used. Closely matched donors were historically the best option for transplant.

In the study, about 1,200 patients at 45 US transplant centers got BMT during 2019 to 2022. Patients had a variety of blood diseases and donors.

Patients had one of these 4 donor types:

1. Matched unrelated donor
2. Half-matched (or haploidentical) donor, usually a parent or sibling
3. Partially matched unrelated donor
4. Umbilical cord blood donor

Two years after BMT:

- About 6 in 10 patients in the first 3 groups were alive
- About 5 of 10 patients who got umbilical cord blood were alive

Keep in mind

Everyone is different, and studies cannot predict how you will do. Ask your doctor about the best treatment options for you.

This study was part of a larger study called BMT CTN 1702. You can read more about that study on CIBMTR.org: For patients unlikely to have a fully matched donor, their team should quickly switch to searching.

Learn more about

- NMDP Patient Support Center at NMDP.org or 1 (888) 999-6743
- More BMT CTN trials at BMTCTN.net
- More study summaries at CIBMTR.org

Source

Bashey A, Logan B, Hill L, et al. Donor-specific transplant outcomes from BMT CTN 1702: a multicenter prospective biologic assignment trial. Blood Advances. 2026 Aug 25;10(16):5543–52. doi: 10.1182/bloodadvances.2026020355. PMC13482518.

Clinical Trial IDs: BMT CTN 1702; ClinicalTrials.gov NCT03904134

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Learn more at BMTCTN.net

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