

Finding blood and marrow transplant donors for everyone

Haploidentical donors slightly better than cord blood in some cases

Although blood and marrow transplant (BMT) can cure leukemia and lymphoma, some people can't find a fully matched donor. And people with diverse ethnic backgrounds may have more difficulty finding a match.

New research shows that two types of partly matched donors can help: haploidentical and cord blood donors. **"Few, if any, patients should be denied transplant for lack of a donor,"** researchers wrote.

This news is from a clinical trial that included about 370 US adults with **acute leukemia, Hodgkin lymphoma, or non-Hodgkin lymphoma**. People got BMT during 2012-2018 from either a haploidentical donor or a cord blood donor. They all had similar preparation, called reduced-intensity conditioning.

What is a haploidentical transplant?

Although it is a mouthful, haploidentical (pronounced HAP-lo-eye-DEN-tick-al) simply means half-matched for certain genes. A haploidentical, or half-matched, donor can be your mom, your dad or your child. Your brothers or sisters have a 50% chance of being a half-match.

What is a cord blood transplant?

Umbilical cord blood, which is often thrown away after birth, instead can be frozen and used for life-saving transplants. Cord blood does not have to be matched as closely as bone marrow. So, it is a good option for people who can't find a full or half-match.

Haploidentical transplants may be a little better than cord blood

In this study, researchers found most people lived longer after a haploidentical transplant than after a cord blood transplant. About 2 years later:

- 57% of people with haploidentical transplants were alive
- 46% of people with cord blood transplants were alive

Source

Fuchs EJ, O'Donnell PV, Eapen M, et al. Double unrelated umbilical cord blood versus HLA-haploidentical bone marrow transplantation (BMT CTN 1101). *Blood*. 2020 Aug 31 doi: 10.1182/blood.2020007535. Epub ahead of print.



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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.

Clinical Trial ID

ClinicalTrials.gov [NCT01597778](#); BMT CTN 1101



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