

Fully matched donors best for blood or marrow transplant

Half-matched donors are acceptable if no match is found



Not everyone who needs a blood or marrow transplant (BMT) has a fully matched donor. Half-matched donors (also called haplo) are OK, but fully matched donors are better. That's according to a new study from the CIBMTR.

The study included 2,300 people who got BMT for acute myeloid leukemia (AML), acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), or myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). Everyone got BMT in the US during 2011-2018.

The study compared the medical records of people who got half-matched versus fully matched BMT. People who got a fully-matched BMT were less likely to get acute graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). GVHD is a serious complication of transplant.

In people who received less intense medicines (called reduced-intensity preparation), those who had a matched donor lived longer than those who had a half-matched donor.

Keep in mind

This was not a clinical trial. The results apply only to people who have acute leukemia or MDS, not other diseases. Everyone in this study got BMT with peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC). More research is needed on BMT with bone marrow and cord blood.

Learn more about

- Finding a donor at [BeTheMatch.org](https://www.bethematch.org)
- Clinical trials of half-matched BMT at [CTsearchsupport.org](https://www.ctsearchsupport.org)
- More [study summaries](#) at CIBMTR.org

Source

Goptu M, Romee R, St Martin A, et al. [HLA-haploidentical vs matched unrelated donor transplants with posttransplant cyclophosphamide-based prophylaxis](#). Blood. 2021 Jul 22; 138(3):273-282. Epub 2021 Apr 13. PMC8310426. doi:10.1182/blood.2021011281.

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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