



Transplant can cure T-cell prolymphocytic leukemia

Blood and marrow transplant is an option for some people with rare leukemia

Blood and marrow transplant (BMT) can help people who have a rare blood cancer. T-cell prolymphocytic leukemia (T-PLL) is hard to treat—medicines alone typically are not enough for a long-term cure. New research shows that BMT is useful for some people who have this disease.

While BMT can cure leukemia, it also can have serious side effects. Researchers wanted to learn when BMT is a good choice and how well BMT works for T-PLL.

Researchers studied the medical records of about 270 people who had T-PLL and got BMT during 2008-2018. All the people got allogeneic BMT, meaning cells donated by another person.

Research found BMT can cure T-PLL for years. Research also found people were likely to live longer after BMT if they had any of the following before BMT:

- Got preparative treatments called reduced-intensity conditioning, without getting the medicines anti-thymocyte globulin or alemtuzumab
- Were aged 60 or younger
- Were able to do normal activities and had only minor symptoms before BMT

After being diagnosed with T-PLL, doctors should refer patients to a transplant center as soon as possible.

Keep in mind

Studies based on patients' past medical records are not as accurate as clinical trials.

Ask your doctor

What are the best options for me? What are the possible benefits and harms of each treatment?

*This plain-language summary was written by Jennifer Motl at the Medical College of Wisconsin and reviewed by an author of the full article.
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Source

Murthy HS, Ahn KW, Estrada-Merly N, et al. [Outcomes of Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation in T-cell Prolymphocytic Leukemia: A Contemporary Analysis from the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research. Transplantation and Cellular Therapy. 2022. Epub 2022/01/27. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2022.01.017.](#)

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[®]), a research collaboration between the National Marrow Donor Program[®]/Be The Match[®] and the Medical College of Wisconsin.



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