

INTERESTING FACTS

SOME STATISTICS

- Only 30% of patients searching for their lifesaving match will find one within their family. 70% of patients rely on finding their match with someone on the bone marrow donor registry.
- 34 people every day are diagnosed with a blood cancer or blood disorder in Australia.
- 81% of people on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry are of North West European background, many ethnic and indigenous groups have less than 1% representation which means patients from these backgrounds will struggle to find their lifesaving match.
- Only 1 in 1500 Australians are called to be someone's lifesaving match in any given year.



1 person every 46 minutes is diagnosed with a blood cancer in Australia

SEARCHING FOR A MATCH

- The individual bone marrow donor registries in each country are inter-connected, so doctors can search worldwide for their patient's match.
- Worldwide there is also a desperate need for people from ethnic, multi-racial and indigenous backgrounds to join the registries.



- Pregnant women can donate the stem cells from their baby's umbilical cord which can also be searched to save a patient's life.
- There is no harm or risk for mother or baby and you will need to ask your doctor to see if this is possible.
- You will need to request to have the cells stored on the public registry rather than privately stored so they can be searched for a patient in need.



Don't throw it out!

Donate your child's stem cells from the umbilical cord blood onto the Cord Blood Registry to potentially become someone's life-saving match.

No harm or pain for mother or baby.

www.urthecure.com.au

info@urthecure.com.au



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ABN 77 318 048 582

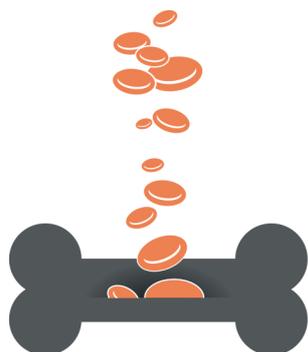


HOW YOUR STEM CELLS CURE CANCER

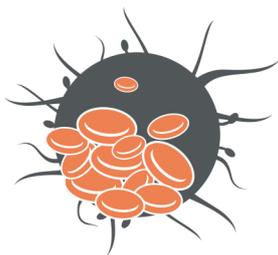
- Stem cells are the building blocks of the body. Stem cells from the bone marrow make up our immune system which plays an important role in fighting disease.
- Patients with a blood disorder like cancer do not have a normal functioning immune system. A stem cell transplant gives the patient a new immune system (the donor's immune system) to fight the disease.
- When the patient has a transplant, they receive high dose chemotherapy to eliminate their immune system in preparation to receive their donor's healthy stem cells. The new stem cells form into a new immune system which can detect the cancer and kill it.

EXCESS HEALTHY STEM CELLS ARE TAKEN FROM A MATCHING DONOR (GENERALLY TAKEN FROM THE BLOOD STREAM)

PATIENT IS GIVEN HIGH DOSE CHEMOTHERAPY TO WIPE OUT THEIR IMMUNE SYSTEM IN PREPARATION TO RECEIVE THE HEALTHY STEM CELLS



PATIENT IS GIVEN THE HEALTHY STEM CELLS TO FORM A NEW IMMUNE SYSTEM



THE HEALTHY STEM CELLS WILL TURN INTO A NEW IMMUNE SYSTEM THAT CAN KILL THE CANCER

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BONE MARROW AND STEM CELLS

- The terms stem transplant and bone marrow transplant are often used interchangeably which can cause confusion. Technically the correct term is associated with the way in which the stem cells or bone marrow are collected.
- If the cells are collected from the blood stream (more common method), then they are known as stem cells to be used in a stem cell transplant.
- If the cells are collected directly from the bone marrow (traditional method) then they are known as bone marrow to be used in a bone marrow transplant.
- If the cells from an umbilical cord are used, then it is known as a cord blood transplant

WAYS IN WHICH DONOR STEM CELLS CAN BE COLLECTED

- Stem cells collected from the blood stream (much like in a blood donation) is the most common method of donating your stem cells, this is used 84% of the time.
- Donating using the traditional bone marrow donation method is used 16% of the time. In this method a needle is inserted into the pelvic bone cavity to take out the bone marrow. Anaesthetic is given and you may feel a dull ache afterwards which can be helped with Panadol, it fades away within a few days.
- A doctor decides which method is best for you. They will never put your health at risk.
- Donating your stem cells does not mean you lose them forever. Your body replenishes these within 1 to 4 weeks

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