

Malaysian Marrow Donor Registry (MMDR) Collaboration Between Makna and IMR

The Malaysian Marrow Donor Registry is dedicated to compiling a database of volunteers who have registered to become bone marrow donors. This database offers a chance to patients who are suffering from life-threatening blood disorders and are unable to find a suitable donor from their siblings. The MMDR is also involved in educating the public about donation, highlighting the plight of those who are in need and encouraging the public to participate in this worthy cause. The MMDR was set up in December 1999. It is a joint project of the National Cancer Council (MAKNA), the Ministry of Health and the Institute for Medical Research. To date we have more than 6,000 registered donors. Our target is 40,000. We have also received more than 40 requests to search for a match on our registry. Unfortunately, given the small size of our database we have been unable to find a match. As the database grows larger the chances of finding a suitable unrelated donor will increase.

What is Bone Marrow?

Bone marrow is spongy tissue in the bones that produce the body's stem cells. During a bone marrow transplant this is harvested and is used to replace the patient's bone marrow. The donor's marrow will replenish itself within 4 to 6 weeks.

What sort of Diseases Require a bone Marrow Transplant?

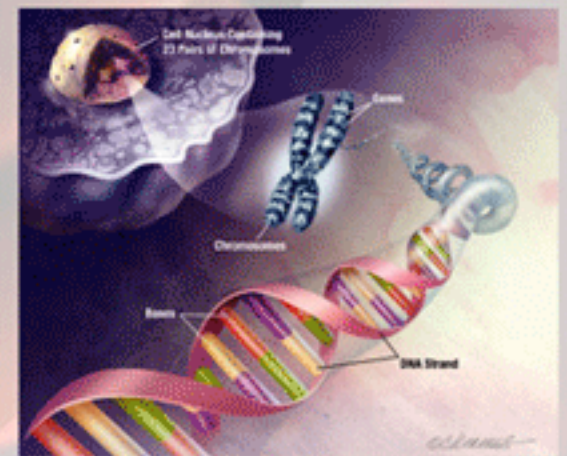
In Malaysia, a bone marrow transplant is most commonly carried out for patients who have been diagnosed with: Leukimia, Thalassaemia, Lymphomas, Aplastic anemia and Immunodeficiencies. More than 60 potentially fatal diseases including several types of Leukimia are treated with unrelated marrow transplants. More than 1,000 children are diagnosed with Leukimia every year and to date there have been more than 600 bone marrow transplants carried out in Malaysia. Almost all of these obtained bone marrow from the siblings.

What is Compatibility And How is it Tested

Compatibility is determined by identifying certain proteins on your cell surface called Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA). A small amount of blood is required for this. A match occurs when the 6 HLA antigens found on a patient's white blood cells match the 6 HLA antigens found on the potential donor's white cells.

Why is it Needed?

Patients who require a bone marrow do not always have a family member who is compatible. In order to have a bone marrow transplant they are compelled to search for an unrelated compatible donor. The chances of finding a compatible donor are quite small (1:10,000) and depend mainly on the size of the registry. A bigger registry would increase the chances of finding a donor.



What are The Chances of Getting a Match From Siblings?

Probability of getting a match from a sibling:

No of siblings	Probability
1	25%
2	44%
3	58%
4	68%
5	76%

Who can be a donor?

Any healthy person between the age of 18 and 50 can be a donor.

For further information on how to be a donor please contact:

Malaysian Marrow Donor Registry
Institute for Medical Research, Jalan Pahang
50588 KUALA LUMPUR
Tel: 03-40402463 / 2464
Fax: 03-26912019

For further information on bone marrow donor registries:

International
Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide: www.bmdw.org
International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry: www.ibmtr.org
National
Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry: www.abmdr.org.au
US National Marrow Donor Registry: www.marrows.org



Making A World of Difference



MAKNA
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National Cancer Council