

About Preliminary Match

Let's start by reviewing what has happened so far....



Some time ago, you provided cheek swabs...

Your swabs were tissue-typed by our laboratory

Our laboratory determined your human leukocyte antigen (HLA) type – the fingerprint of your immune system. HLA are protein markers used by the body to determine which cells belong and which should be rejected. There are hundreds of thousands of HLA combinations in the world and, in order for a bone marrow transplant to succeed, the donor and recipient must have identical or nearly identical typing. Usually matches occur between people of similar ethnic ancestry.

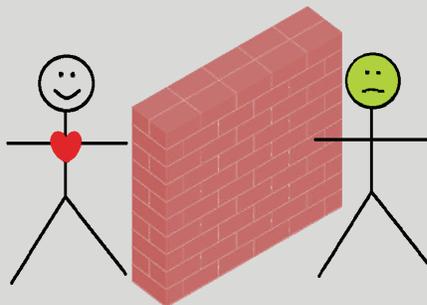


Your typing was posted on the volunteer Registry

Your HLA data (typing) was listed on the Registry (database of potential volunteer donors) using a unique nine-digit number, your Donor Identification Number (DID). Your name, contact and identifying information are not listed anywhere on the National Registry. Within the Registry, you are known exclusively by this DID and our program is the only one with access to you or your identifying data.

Our national donation system was built to provide anonymity and confidentiality for both donors and patients.

Donor Centers work exclusively with donors: Recruiting them, protecting their personal and health information, and managing the aspects of donation.



Transplant Centers work exclusively with patients and their doctors: Managing the patient's preparation, transplant and post-transplant care.

Communications pass through the neutral National Marrow Donor Program, which acts as a wall between the two sides.

A patient learned a transplant was the best hope

There are more than 50 different diseases that can be treated or cured with a bone marrow transplant. Some of the names – leukemia, lymphoma – you may recognize; some of the rarer ones – thalassemia, lymphohistiocytosis – you may not.

The important thing to understand is that no one undertakes a transplant lightly. The patients are very sick, in fact so sick that some won't even survive the process. Timing is critical. Doctors want to transplant patients at the right time and conditions can change quickly.



The patient's doctor searched the Registry for potential matches



Doctors usually start the search for a matching donor within the patient's family. The most likely match is a patient's sibling. About 70% must find an unrelated donor from the volunteer Registry.

If a patient has a very rare HLA type, there may be few matching donors in the Registry. Other patients may have several potential matches.

Your typing came up as a potential, or preliminary, match.

Right now, we want you to complete the following:

1. Interact with your Coordinator. Return his/her calls, text messages, or emails promptly. Be honest about your situation. If you are not able or willing to participate as a donor, now is the time to tell us.
2. Complete a questionnaire about your health history. There are a lot of personal questions, but they are carefully selected to make sure that donation will pose no special health risks for you or your patient.
3. Keep in touch with your Coordinator about significant changes in your health or availability. If you move, receive new orders, PCS, are seriously injured, or have major life changes – it is important that we know.



If you were asked to do so: Provide blood samples.

Attend your scheduled appointment. We perform two types of tests on your blood, infectious disease testing and confirmatory testing. The infectious disease testing determines if you have currently, or have had in the past, any diseases that might be a risk for the patient. The confirmatory testing ensures that we've got the right person and that you are well matched for the patient.



Wait for an answer

Your results will be evaluated by the Transplant Center. They will select the best donor and plan for the patient. This may take anywhere from a week to 3 months.

A single best-matched donor will be selected by the patient's doctors



If you are the best match, we will contact you to discuss the next phase of donation. If you are not the best match, you will receive an email message. You will be returned to the pool of potential donors who can be matched to other patients.

Please do not be disappointed if you are not chosen as a donor for this patient, as you may match another in the future. In 2015, we found about 30% of preliminarily-matched donors were asked to donate.

Even if you are not asked to donate this time, you can still help:

⇒ Host a recruitment drive for Department of Defense members in your area. Email donors@dodmarrow.org for more information.

⇒ Share your story on social media:

 <https://www.facebook.com/DODMarrow/>

 @Salute_To_Life

⇒ Keep your contact information up-to-date at <https://www.salutetolife.org/updateinfo.html>

All of these small steps have an enormous impact on the success of bone marrow transplantation.