

Bone Marrow Registry

The majority of patients that need bone marrow transplants cannot find a match within their family. Their only hope is to turn to the Be The Match Registry. The chances of a successful match are even lower for minorities, which include African Americans, Asian & Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, American Indians & Alaskan natives.

Since minorities are still underrepresented on the Registry, the need for minority volunteer donors is particularly great! The only way we can help is to increase the number of potential donors.

Please DO NOT let the fear of surgeries prevent you from becoming a potential donor. If you are a match, there are now two ways of donating your bone marrow:

1) Peripheral blood stem cell donation (about 80%- 85% of the time)

A drug is taken for 5 days to increase the amount of stem cells made by your bone marrow, which are released into the bloodstream. The stem cells are extracted via apheresis. Blood is removed through a needle in one arm and passed through a machine that separates out the stem cells. The remaining blood is returned to the donor through the other arm.

2) Surgical marrow extraction - (less than 20% of the time)

Under general anesthesia. Needles are used to withdraw liquid marrow from the pelvic bone area.

All it takes is a cheek swab sample to be added to the registry!