



YOU COULD BE A LIFESAVER
REGISTER AS A BLOOD STEM CELL DONOR

dkms.org.uk

Every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Often, a blood stem cell donation represents their best chance of survival.

Register with DKMS as a blood stem cell donor and you could save Ian's life.

Wednesday 13th December,
14:00pm – 18:00pm

Wallingford School, St. Georges Road, Wallingford,
OX10 8HH

DKMS launched in the UK in 2013 with a mission to increase the pool of registered potential blood stem cell donors. Blood cancers affect the function of your blood cells. For many blood cancer patients, a blood stem cell donation is their only chance of survival.

Blood stem cell donations provide lifesaving treatment for people with blood cancers by replacing their unhealthy cells with healthy blood-forming cells.

BEAT THE ODDS

To be considered a match, the donor and patient must share the same tissue characteristics (HLA). Because only one in three find a matching donor in their own family, a lot of patients must look for an unrelated donor with a similar HLA type.

With more than 17,000 characteristics that can occur in millions of combinations, finding a match isn't easy. It is especially difficult for black, Asian or mixed race patients because it's likely that a matching donor will share the same ethnicity but there are substantially less ethnically diverse potential donors on the UK aligned stem cell registry.

GET SWABBED

You can register at a donor event or online. The registration process involves filling out a form and swabbing the inside of your cheeks to collect cells to be analysed to determine your HLA.

CAN YOU JOIN THE REGISTRY?

To register you must be between 17 and 55 years old and in good health. Your HLA characteristics will be listed anonymously on the UK aligned stem cell registry for potential matching with patients, and will be available for patient searches internationally until the age of 61.

IF YOU ARE A MATCH

If you are a suitable donor, you will be asked to donate in one of two ways. You should be willing to donate using either method:

1. PERIPHERAL BLOOD STEM CELL DONATION

Stem cells are collected via the blood stream. To increase the number of cells in the blood stream, for four consecutive days prior to the collection, donors receive a daily injection to stimulate stem cell production (G-CSF).

On the day of donation, the donor's blood is collected and passed through a machine that separates the stem cells (apheresis). The remaining blood is returned to the donor.

This is a non-surgical outpatient procedure that takes around four hours. **90% of the donations are given by this method.**

2. BONE MARROW DONATION

Marrow cells are collected from the pelvic bone. This is a 1-2 hour inpatient procedure under general anaesthetic. **10% of the donations are given by this method.**

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