

# Stem cell / bone marrow donor ...

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[Linda](#) 1 posts since

30-Dec-2009

Dear All

I'm new to the forum and would appreciate any advice anyone can give. My sister has AML. She belongs to a high risk group of the leukaemia returning and requires a transplant. Fortunately, I have been tested and I am a suitable match. I haven't yet seen a doctor and unsure how it is decided whether it is bone marrow or stem cells which will be taken. Can anyone help? Also, how long prior to the planned transplant date would I need to donate and what does it entail?

Many thanks and good wishes to all.

[juliejules](#) 1 posts since

09-Mar-2010 1. **Re: Stem cell / bone marrow donor** 09-Mar-2010 22:13

Hi, Sorry I can't answer the question that you have asked about the stem cell/ bone marrow transplant. But, I wanted to pass onto you about my experience. I had AML in 1993. I was 34 years old. After 2 courses of chemo I went into complete remission. I then went onto have a third course. I then had to make the decision of whether to have a fourth course or have a transplant. Because I was in full remission they were going to use my own bone marrow (Autologous) I was also at a high risk of a relapse. I have no siblings. So, I went ahead and had the transplant. I had the transplant in the August and by December I had turned the corner and my strength and energy was returning. Now 17 years later I am fitter and healthier than ever. I don't take any medication, I did have a menopause at the time, so now when I should be going through it I have escaped it!

I hope this helps your sister in some way.

Regards Julie

[ladystar](#) 1 posts since

03-Apr-2010 2. **Re: Stem cell / bone marrow donor** 18-Apr-2010 17:22

in response to: [juliejules](#) Hello. I was very interested to hear you decided to have your transplant. i too was offered one after my third chemo for AML but decided against it as I was doing so well. i have been in complete remission for 18 months now+hope u r well. Helena.

[Whyohwhy](#) 14 posts since

11-Jul-2010 3. **Re: Stem cell / bone marrow donor** 14-Jul-2010 20:38

Hi

I know you posted a long time ago but I am wondering and hoping it all went well.

My mum has AML, got diagnosed in may. She has had two lots of chemotherapy and now the doctors are deciding whether to do a transplant. Her sister is a very good match for her.

Do you have any thoughts or information on this as I'm going stir crazy with all of it and would like to hear some feedback on it all.

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Thank you

Hope all is well x

[Kismit](#) 13 posts since

03-Aug-2010 4. **Re: Stem cell / bone marrow donor** 12-Aug-2010 03:15

Hi

I know your post was a while ago but this may help others.

My brother was diagnosed with AML and I was tested but unfortunately was not a match. I am sure you can imagine the devastation we all felt at this news. We were advised that they would check for suitable donors across Europe on the database. They came up with 14! This was narrowed down to 4 and then 2. So all is not lost if you're not a match for your loved one.

As with regards the type of transplant I was told that this was a consultant's decision but stem cells were usually favoured these days as it is less invasive for both the donor and the recipient. Stem cells can be frozen too. I found that the national blood service were a fountain of knowledge regarding bone marrow/stem cell donation.

Before my brother was ill I didn't know anything about stem cell donation. To me bone marrow transplants were a painful operation with recovery time afterwards too. Maybe more people would be prepared to become donors if they realised how different it is.