

Registry-sponsored cryopreservation services supported allogeneic transplant during the pandemic

Providing critical services to ensure access to care

WHAT?

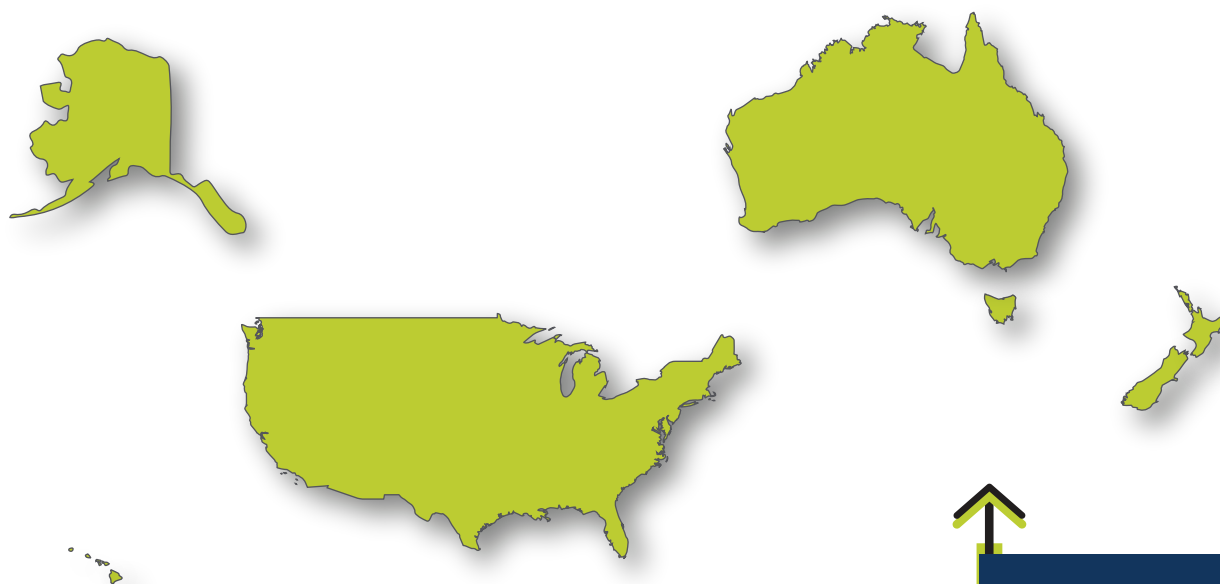
Analysis of bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell products cryopreserved (frozen for future use) through the Be The Match® BioBank

Be The Match offered centralized biobanking and cryopreservation services to meet emergency needs. Cell products collected from donors were cryopreserved at either Duke University or University of Minnesota.



WHEN?

January 2020–February 2022



Transplant centers in U.S., Australia and New Zealand used the centralized BioBank cryopreservation service.

WHERE?

WHO?

173 donors from 58 transplant programs had cell products collected and cryopreserved through the BioBank.

WHY?

The transplant world must be able to pivot quickly to ensure patients who need lifesaving blood and marrow transplants don't have to wait when significant supply chain and transportation obstacles occur. Need to assess the effectiveness of centralized cryopreservation services to deliver high quality products.

RESULTS

Transport time from product collection to cryopreservation was usually within 24 hours, with an average time of 16 hours. Most products were stored 1–2 weeks before shipment to transplant centers. Unused products remain in cold storage for future use.

At the time of analysis, data was available from the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) for 75 patients with blood cancer or blood disorders who received cryopreserved products through the BioBank at 42 centers in 3 countries. Of the 54 patients who had engraftment data reported, 91% achieved neutrophil engraftment and 85% reported platelet recovery post-transplant. Post-transplant follow-up is limited and results are preliminary.

IMPACT

Centralized services from the BioBank provided validated methods for cryopreservation of bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell products for network centers in need of support during the pandemic. Early transplant outcome results suggest the service resulted in preparation and delivery of potent high quality products. The COVID-19 pandemic forced registries and transplant centers to adapt because of logistical and other hurdles to ensure continuity of care for patients in need of blood and marrow transplantation.

FROM THE EXPERTS

"We're pleased to offer another service to ensure timely delivery of healthy donor products for patients. This data should instill confidence that the alternative pathway of cryopreservation through our registry can be a viable solution when needed to get a patient to transplant."



Jeff Wren
Director, Product Development and Innovation
Be The Match/National Marrow Donor Program

"A centralized cryopreservation service provides a convenient route to donation and prevents logistical barriers from delivering high quality, potent grafts on the patient's timeline."



Donna M. Regan MT(ASCP)SBB
Senior Director, Customer-Ready Products
Be The Match/National Marrow Donor Program

