

# Connecting Donors and Patients

Confirmatory Typing and Workup mark the starting point of the donor-patient journey

## Jacob meets his Hero!

At just two years old, Jacob from the United Kingdom was diagnosed with a rare and life-threatening condition called hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a disease that affects infants and young children. His **only chance for survival was a stem cell transplant**. Hope eventually came 10 months later, when his parents received **life-changing news: a compatible donor match had been found**. In March 2019, **Jacob received a stem cell transplant** from someone he had never met – a 50-year-old woman from Scotland who had signed up as a DKMS donor.

**Five years later**, Jacob and his parents finally **got the chance to meet his hero**, Lorna, in an emotional and moving encounter organized by DKMS. Jacob said, *“It’s nervous and exciting at the same time.”* His parents echoed that feeling, sharing how they had met other children who, sadly, never found their match. But for Jacob, he’s been able to go abroad for the first time, swim, go to school, and live an exciting life - that miracle came through Lorna.

Lorna, who had no idea who she was donating to at the time, shared her excitement at meeting Jacob:

**“I can’t believe I get to meet him after so many years it’s amazing!”**

Scan the QR code to watch a video of the entire story



[dkms.org.uk/  
get-involved/stories/  
jacob-meets-his-hero](https://dkms.org.uk/get-involved/stories/jacob-meets-his-hero)

**And this is only one story of so many!**  
In 2025...

**4,998**

... **anonymous correspondences** were moderated by DKMS worldwide and...

**965**

... cases, where **personal contact details were released** to make real life interactions possible.



**Turn the page** to find out on how DKMS can support similar stories by connecting patients in need of a stem cell donation with donors from our international database.

## Together, we make Donor-Patient Stories possible

For around 70% of patients, an **unrelated donor is the only option**. To ensure the best possible match between donor and patient, DKMS donors go through **standardized processes** while remaining in **close personal contact** with our colleagues throughout the journey.

### Confirmatory Typing

A confirmatory typing (CT) is carried out to **verify the donor's initial HLA typing**. In addition, initial testing for infectious disease markers (IDM), such as CMV status, is performed at this stage and later confirmed during the workup process. It is mandatory to perform such tests with a **freshly taken sample from the donor**.

During a CT the **donor's availability** is verified and their **overall health status** is evaluated. Therefore **we reach out to every donor** and they have to fill out an extensive health history questionnaire.

### Work Up

Immediately after receiving a new workup request, we **contact the donor** and **conduct an information session**. During this, we explain the donation procedure in more detail and discuss logistics and scheduling. Our **colleagues are the single point of contact** for the donor during the whole donation process.

We coordinate the entire workup process with the donor, the transplant center and the collection center by considering the needs of each party. On average, it takes **between three and six weeks from workup receipt to collection**. However, we try to comply with the transplant center's requested transplantation date.

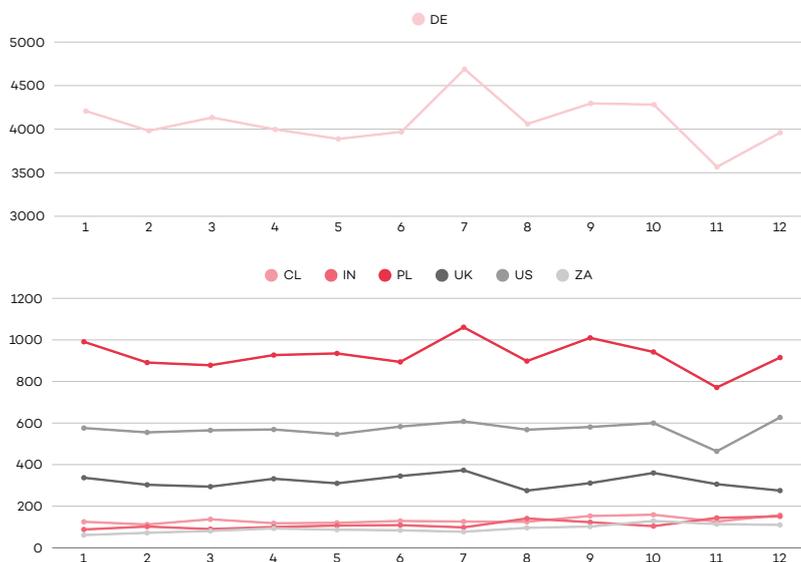
### DKMS

DKMS Donor Centers  
Millions of potential lifesavers

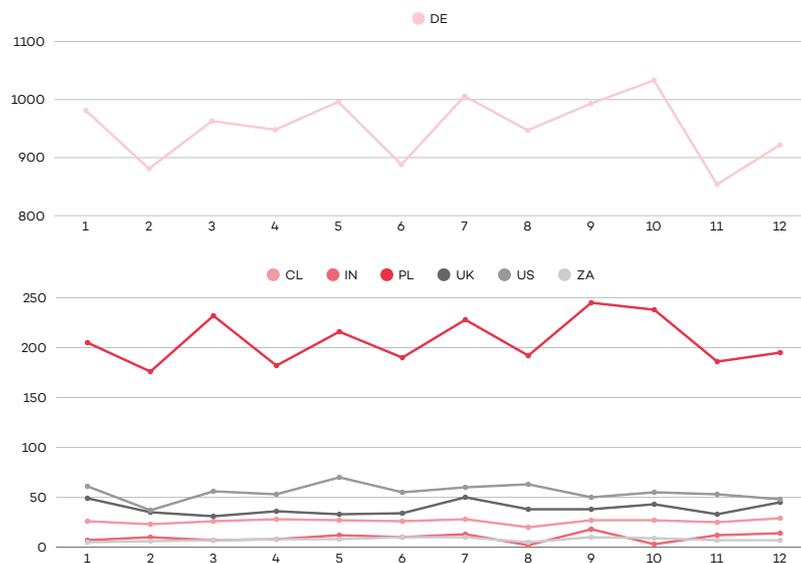
Currently we are present in Chile, Germany, India, Poland, South Africa, the UK and the US. All seven Donor Centers facilitate stem cell donations by ...

- raising awareness,
- registering donors,
- providing matches for patients with blood cancers and other life-threatening blood disorders,
- and comprehensive guidance throughout the donation process.

CT numbers per month 2025



Incoming workups per month 2025



### Contact

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### More information



professional.dkms.org