DKMS
WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER



Philipp T.,
former blood
cancer patient

The best cure for blood cancer is you

›› A guide to stem cell donation

Give the gift of hope!

Right now, there could be a blood cancer patient for whom your stem cells are the only hope. It's a powerful reminder of the difference that one person can make. Register today and give the gift of hope to a blood cancer patient.

DKMS regularly organizes donor drives across Germany to recruit new stem cell donors. To find out if there's one going on near you, check out our website: dkms.de. Alternatively, request a swab kit online, use the three swabs to swab the inside of your cheeks, and get yourself registered at DKMS.

Cash donations welcome

At DKMS, we appreciate your financial support as well. Each registration of a new donor costs DKMS 50 euros. With your help, we can sign up even more new donors. You will also be helping fund research into the best possible treatments for blood cancer patients and boosting access to innovative therapies worldwide.

Thank you for your support!

Donate here
DKMS Donor Center gGmbH
IBAN DE64 6415 0020 0000 2555 56

As a registered DKMS stem cell donor, you could be the match that gives someone with blood cancer a second chance at life. So far, more than 13.5 million volunteers worldwide have signed up with us. With their fantastic help, we have been able to facilitate more than 140,000 stem cell donations to date – and give patients the chance of a new life. But still, many patients continue to wait for a suitable donor to be found. And that's where you come in!

Let's fight blood cancer – together!

Every 12 minutes, someone in Germany is diagnosed with blood cancer. Young or old, no one is safe from this disease. But all of us can play a part in beating it.

Your stem cell donation could give a blood cancer patient a real chance of being cured. The challenge we face is this: for a stem cell transplant to succeed, the patient and donor's tissue markers must match almost completely. So, the more donors we have, the greater the chances of finding a match.

Sign up and help

Essentially, every healthy individual between 17 and 55 years of age can register as a potential stem cell donor. You can donate between 18 and 60 years of age. All that matters is that you are in good physical health and not affected by chronic illness.

A simple cheek swab is enough to determine your tissue markers, and with your written consent, we'll be happy to welcome you to DKMS right away. Maybe, one day, you too could give a blood cancer patient a second chance at life.

Our mission has inspired entire families, companies, associations and countless celebrities to sign up for the good cause – and the number continues to grow every day.



Carlos S.,
former blood
cancer patient

Donating stem cells

If your tissue markers turn out to match those of a patient, you will undergo further tests along with a thorough medical. DKMS will organize transport to and from your preliminary medical and donation for you, and also cover the costs. There are basically two ways of donating stem cells:

1. Peripheral stem cell collection

Peripheral stem cell collection is currently the most widespread method of cell collection, accounting for 90 percent of all cases. It involves harvesting stem cells from the blood by a special procedure called apheresis. To do this, a needle is inserted into a large vein in each arm, much like when you donate blood. For the five days leading up to your donation, you will be given injections of the growth factor G-CSF, a naturally occurring hormone-like substance that increases the production and release of stem cells into the bloodstream. Peripheral stem cell donation takes around three to five hours. On rare occasions, donors may be asked to return for a second day of stem cell collection. When the growth factor is administered, some flu-like symptoms may occur, but an inpatient hospital stay won't be necessary. According to research so far, there are no indications of any long-term side effects.

2. Bone marrow collection

Bone marrow is donated under general anesthesia, with about 1 liter of blood and marrow being removed from the back of the pelvic bone. This is the equivalent of approximately five percent of a donor's entire bone marrow, which regenerates to its usual levels within a few weeks. Following the procedure, donors may experience localized pain that feels like bruising. They normally spend two or three days in hospital plus a few more days at home to recover, on the advice of the collection clinic. Bone marrow collection is a low-risk procedure, but in rare cases, as with any surgical procedure, infections, bruising, or wound healing issues may occur. To rule out any avoidable risks, a thorough preliminary medical is our top priority.



Sign up today for your chance to save a life!

Request your swab kit today at **dkms.de.** Swabbing your cheeks is easy and takes just a few minutes to do. You can even do it yourself, in the comfort of your own home.

Hope for blood cancer patients – DKMS at a glance.

DKMS was founded on May 28, 1991, as a private initiative prompted by the story of blood cancer patient Mechtild Harf.

DKMS currently has over 13.5 million potential stem cell donors. The non-profit operates not just in Germany but in the USA, Poland, the UK, Chile, India, and South Africa as well.

Every day, 29 DKMS donors donate stem cells for blood cancer patients worldwide in about 60 countries – and counting!

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