

# STUDENTS VS BLOOD CANCER

HELP US DELETE BLOOD CANCER

FACT SHEET  
FAQS

[dkms.org.uk](http://dkms.org.uk)

AT ANY ONE TIME  
THERE ARE AROUND  
**2,000** PEOPLE IN  
THE UK WAITING FOR  
A BLOOD STEM CELL  
DONATION, AND OVER  
**37,000** PEOPLE  
WAITING WORLDWIDE

THERE IS ONLY  
A **4-5%** CHANCE  
THAT YOU WILL  
MATCH A PATIENT  
AND BE CALLED  
UP AS A DONOR  
10 YEARS AFTER  
YOU REGISTERED

PATIENTS WHO  
ARE FROM AN  
ASIAN, BLACK OR  
ETHNIC MINORITY  
BACKGROUND  
HAVE UNDER A **20%**  
CHANCE OF FINDING  
A MATCHING DONOR

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CHOSEN TO DONATE AS THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEMS

THE NUMBER OF  
DONORS WE HAVE  
RECRUITED IN THE  
UK IS OVER 190,000

ONLY AROUND  
**30%** OF PATIENTS  
FIND A MATCHING  
DONOR WITHIN  
THEIR FAMILY

EVERY **20** MINUTES,  
SOMEONE IN THE UK IS  
DIAGNOSED WITH A  
BLOOD CANCER LIKE  
LEUKAEMIA, LYMPHOMA  
OR MYELOMA

AROUND **50%** OF  
PATIENTS IN THE  
UK NEVER FIND  
A LIFESAVING  
DONOR MATCH

YOUNG MEN ARE  
**UNDER-REPRESENTED**  
ON THE DKMS DATABASE - ONLY  
8% OF THOSE REGISTERED ARE  
BETWEEN 18 AND 30 YEARS OLD

FINDING A PERSON WITH THE  
SAME TISSUE MATCH IS  
EXTREMELY RARE, AND WITH  
MORE THAN **8,500** KNOWN  
TISSUE CHARACTERISTICS THAT  
CAN OCCUR IN MILLIONS OF  
COMBINATIONS FINDING A  
MATCH IS A BIT LIKE WINNING  
THE LOTTERY!

APPROXIMATELY **70%** OF PATIENTS WHO NEED A TRANSPLANT  
DO NOT HAVE A SUITABLE DONOR AND RELY ON THE REGISTER  
TO FIND AN UNRELATED DONOR

## WHY DOES REGISTERING AS A POTENTIAL DONOR COST MONEY?

DKMS is a charity and therefore, relies on monetary donations to cover donor recruitment costs. The cost of the registration for one potential donor is £40.

Tissue typing is the determination of your tissue characteristics taken from your swab through analysis by a laboratory. We have to fund all registration costs entirely through voluntary monetary donations. This is why we are grateful to those who are able to support us by making a monetary donation to cover the cost of their own registration, and also for those who contribute towards this cost.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DONATION?

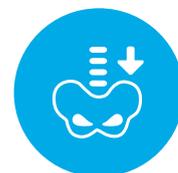
### Peripheral Stem Cell Collection (method used in around 90% of donations)

A peripheral blood stem cell donation is performed as an out-patient procedure and you will not be required to have a general anaesthetic. This technique has been applied in medicine since 1988 and has been performed by DKMS (DKMS ) since 1996. According to our most recent research, no known long term effects have ever been recorded for either the procedure of donating or for the G-CSF injections that one would receive prior to the donation.



### Bone Marrow Collection (method used in around 10% of cases):

A general anaesthetic is necessary for the bone marrow collection. The risk of life-threatening complications during any general anaesthetic is estimated by doctors at less than around 1:50,000. After the collection, local wound pain and in some cases nausea can occur as an after-effect of the general anaesthetic. Furthermore, a risk of infection exists to the same extent as it does for any wound. There are no known risks associated with this procedure for donating bone marrow.



## WILL I PERMANENTLY LOSE MY STEM CELLS?

No. If you choose to donate some of your blood stem cells, you won't actually lose them. Your blood stem cells completely replenish themselves within 3-6 weeks, depending on which method of donation was used. This has to be the best natural cure to this devastating disease, and it resides within every one of us!

## WHAT ARE HLA CHARACTERISTICS?

As a potential blood stem cell donor, your tissue type will be matched using human leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing. HLA are proteins or markers found on all cells in your body. These proteins are used by your immune system to recognise which cells belong in your body and which cells do not. If these proteins do not match, the patient's body would reject the given stem cells of the donor. A close match means that the patient's immune system would recognise your blood system as its own. With more than 8,500 known characteristics that can occur in millions of combinations, finding a match is extremely rare.

Approximately 70% of patients who need a transplant do not have a suitable donor and rely on the register to find an unrelated donor. In these cases, the patient's doctor will search for an unrelated adult donor, or alternatively for a cord blood donation. To be considered a match, the patient and donor must have at least 8 out of 10 tissue characteristics in common, but ideally have 10.

## HOW LONG AM I REGISTERED FOR?

Once you have registered as a potential stem cell donor, you will remain on the registry until your 61st Birthday.

For more information and FAQ visit [dkms.org.uk/en/frequently-asked-questions](https://dkms.org.uk/en/frequently-asked-questions)