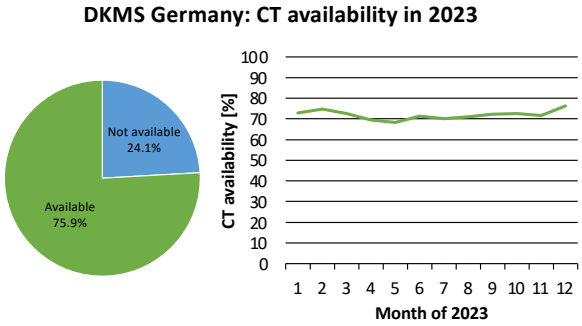
Donor availability at CT: the parental factor

Jürgen Sauter[1], Julia Stolze[2], Thilo Mengling[1], Deborah Buk[2], Elke Neujahr[1,2], Alexander H. Schmidt[1]

[1] DKMS Group, Tübingen, Germany
[2] DKMS Donor Center Germany, Tübingen, Germany

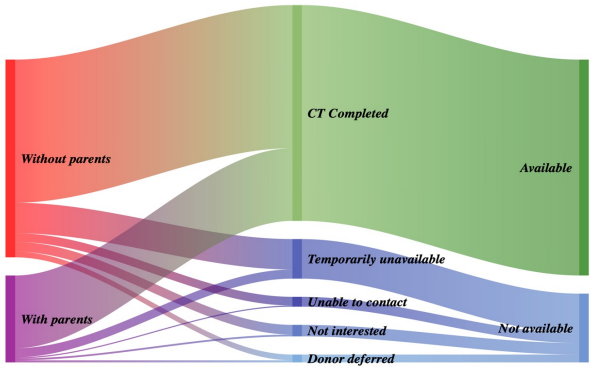
Background

After registration as a potential unrelated stem cell donor, a confirmatory typing (CT) request, also referred to as "Verification typing" (VT), is often a donor's next crucial step toward stem cell collection.
Consequently, donor availability at this stage is of paramount importance for both, patient therapy planning as well as registry operations.
In general, availability is influenced by a multitude of factors, such as donors' sex, age and health, ethnicity, time since recruitment, recruitment channel, registry country and others.

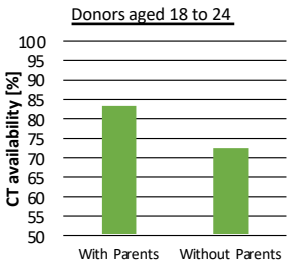


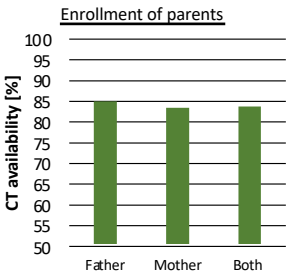
Methods

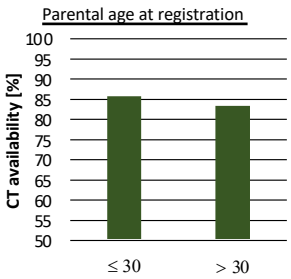
Based on 2023 data, we investigated whether donors at DKMS Germany, whose parents are also registered donors, differ in availability when called for CT from donors without registered parents.
Our hypothesis, driven by anecdotal evidence from donor center practice, was that registered parents would have a positive impact on the CT availability of their children.
We assumed a parent-child relationship given identical addresses, identical surnames, and an age difference of at least 20 years. We did not use HLA information for confirmation.

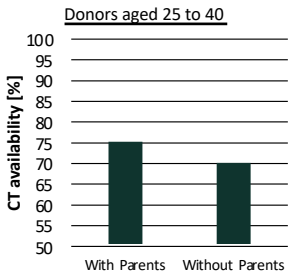


Results









Conclusion

Our results suggest that parents

- play a significant role in their children's decision making at CT level
- influence them towards a positive decision if they are registered donors themselves.

As parental age at recruitment does not seem to influence the impact on their children's CT availability, this would be an argument against a too low upper age limit for donor recruitment.

The results of this explorative study should be confirmed by a multivariate analysis that includes other potential factors influencing CT availability.

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DKMS Group gGmbH
Kressbach 1
72072 Tübingen, Germany
www.professional.dkms.org

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Author contact:
sauter@dkms.de