

Philipp T.,
former blood
cancer patient

**The best
remedy
against
blood cancer
is you**

**>> Information on
stem cell donation**

We need your help

For stem cells to be successfully transplanted, tissue markers have to match. However, there are thousands of different HLA combinations that occur with different frequency. This means that there may be a patient out there who only matches with your unique stem cells. If you think about it, there's really only one thing to do: Go register as a donor and give hope to blood cancer patients.

DKMS regularly organizes donor drives in Germany to recruit new stem cell donors. You'll find our current efforts on our website: dkms.de. Alternatively, you can simply request your swab kit online and have yourself registered with DKMS by taking a cheek swab with three cotton swabs.

More money, more chances

Please support DKMS financially as well. Each registration alone costs DKMS 40 euros. With your donation, you will help us to recruit new donors, provide patients worldwide with access to therapies, and support research into the best possible treatment for blood cancer patients.

Many thanks for your help!

Donation account Kreissparkasse Tübingen
IBAN DE64 6415 0020 0000 2555 56
BIC SOLADES1TUB

As a registered stem cell donor with DKMS Donor Center gGmbH, you may be the right “match” and be able to give a blood cancer patient a second chance at life. So far, more than 11.5 million people worldwide have registered in our database. Thanks to this invaluable help, DKMS has already been able to facilitate over 105,000 stem cell donations and thereby give patients a second chance at life. Still, for many patients no suitable donor is found. And that's why we need you!

Working together to fight blood cancer

Every 12 minutes, a person in Germany is diagnosed with blood cancer. Children and adults alike – no one is safe from this disease.

And everyone can do their bit to defeat it. Remember: For many patients a stem cell transplant is the only chance at life. The challenging part is that for a transplant to be successful, the tissue markers of patients and donors must match almost completely. That is the reason why it is so important to find a suitable donor. The more people participate, the greater the chance that patients will find their “match”.

Everyone can join in

Any healthy person between the ages of 17 and 55 can register as a potential stem cell donor. The only requirement is that you are in good physical condition and have no chronic illnesses.

With a simple cheek swab, a lab determines your tissue markers. By giving your written consent, you become part of DKMS and, hopefully, you will be able to give a blood cancer patient a second chance at life. The reality of how easy it is to help save a life has inspired entire families, companies, associations, and even celebrities to become involved in this cause – and the number is growing every day!



Carlos S.,
former blood
cancer patient

The stem cell donation

If your tissue markers match those of a patient, further tests and a thorough examination will be carried out. If you are found to be the best match, there are two methods of donating stem cells.



1. Peripheral stem cell collection

Peripheral stem cell collection is currently the most frequently used collection procedure, accounting for 90 % of all cases. This method involves harvesting stem cells from the blood using a special procedure (apheresis). To do this, needles will usually be put into a large vein in each arm, just like when donating blood. For five days leading up to your donation, you will be given injections of the G-CSF growth factor, a naturally occurring hormone-like substance that increases the production and release of stem cells into the bloodstream. The actual peripheral stem cell collection takes approximately three to five hours. On rare occasions, donors may be asked to return for a second day of cell collection. During the administration of the growth factor, flu-like symptoms may occur. An inpatient hospital stay is not necessary. The current state of research does not show any known long-term side effects.



2. Bone marrow collection

Bone marrow is donated under general anaesthesia, with about one litre of blood and marrow being removed from the back of the pelvic bone. This is the equivalent of around five percent of your entire bone marrow. The donor's bone marrow regenerates fully within a few weeks. Following the procedure, you may experience localised, bruising-like pain for a few days. Donating via bone marrow collection usually involves donors staying in hospital for one or two nights. After that, you are advised to consult staff at the collection clinic and spend a few more days recovering at home. Bone marrow extraction is a low-risk procedure, but in rare occasions, as with any surgical procedure, infections, bruising, or wound healing issues may occur. In order to exclude avoidable risks, it is our priority to carry out a thorough medical examination of our donors.

„With my donation,
I was able to save a life.“

Melina D.,
stem cell donor



Become a stem cell donor

Request your swab kit today at [dkms.de](https://www.dkms.de).

You can easily perform the cheek swab yourself at home in just a few minutes.

Hope for blood cancer patients – an overview of DKMS.



DKMS was founded on May 28, 1991 as a private initiative in memory of Mechtild Harf, a blood cancer patient.



In addition to Germany, our non-profit organization operates in the USA, Poland, the UK, Chile, India, and South Africa.



Every day, 21 DKMS donors donate stem cells for blood cancer patients all over the world – so far in 57 countries.

DKMS Donor Center gGmbH

Kressbach 1
72072 Tübingen

T +49 7071 943 - 0
F +49 7071 943 - 1499
post@dkms.de

dkms.de

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