

Blood Cancer

Blood cancers are the third most common cause of cancer death in the UK. Every year nearly 13,000 people die from blood cancer in the UK. (Cancer Research UK)

Every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma. Over 30,000 people are diagnosed with blood cancer in the UK. (Cancer Research UK)

It is the most common type of childhood cancer. Every year, over 600 children are diagnosed with blood cancer in the UK. (Cancer Research UK)

Over 2,000 people each year in the UK are in need of a blood stem cell transplant.

For most people there is no single cure, a blood stem cell donation from a genetically similar person can offer the best treatment and could help give someone in need of a transplant a second chance at life.

Just 3% of the UK's population are registered as potential donors – and only a tiny proportion of these are from minority ethnic communities.

Patients from black, Asian or other minority backgrounds have a 37% chance of finding the best possible stem cell donor match, compared to 72% for northern European backgrounds.

That's why the charity DKMS exists. The more people who register as potential blood stem cell donors, the better the chances of finding a donor for someone in need.

If you are aged between 17 and 55 and in general good health take the first step to register as a blood stem cell donor by registering for your home swab kit at www.dkms.org.uk

DKMS

DKMS is a global not-for profit organisation dedicated to the fight against blood cancer and blood disorders. We raise awareness, recruit blood stem cell donors to provide people with a second chance at life. We also raise funds to cover donor registration costs.

To date, DKMS has registered over 11 million potential blood stem cell donors worldwide. 100,000 people around the world have received a potentially lifesaving blood stem cell donation through DKMS.

DKMS launched in the UK in 2013 and has registered nearly 900,000 blood stem cell donors to date and helped to give over 1,600 people a second chance at life.

DKMS started in Germany in 1991 around one family's search for a donor. Dr. Peter Harf founded DKMS in honour of his wife Mechtild, who had sadly lost her battle with blood cancer. Peter promised his wife to help every blood cancer patient searching for a matching donor. Today, DKMS operates in Germany, USA, Poland, Chile, India, South Africa and the UK.