

# Bone Marrow Transplantation



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# BMT

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- The collection and transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells
- 1950s and 1960s, 200 allogeneic transplants
- **1968**, first successful allogeneic transplant



# Features of stem cells

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- **Regenerative** capacity
- **Ability to home** to the marrow space following intravenous injection
  - Selectins (BM endothelial cells) and integrins (stem cells)
- Ability of the stem cell to be **cryopreserved**

# Sources of stem cells

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- **Bone marrow** stem cells
- **Peripheral blood** stem cells (**PBSC**)
- Umbilical **cord** blood





# Types of transplants

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- **Autologous**
- **Allogenic**
  - Syngeneic (identical twin)
  - Related
  - Unrelated



# Autologous Tx

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- Removal and storage of the patient's own stem cells with subsequent reinfusion after high-dose myeloablative therapy
- No risk of graft rejection
- Can be contaminated with tumor cells, leading to relapse
- No need for growth factors



# Indications

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1- **Replace** an abnormal but nonmalignant lymphohematopoietic system

2- **Treat malignancy** by allowing the administration of highdose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue (HDC/SCR)



# Non-malignant diseases

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- **Inherited immune disorders**
  - Severe combined immunodeficiency
  - Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
  - Chédiak-Higashi syndrome
  - Chronic granulomatous disease
  - Kostmann's syndrome
- **Marrow failure states**
  - Fanconi's anemia
  - Severe aplastic anemia





# Continued...

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- **Inherited red cell disorders**
  - Thalassemia major
  - Sickle cell anemia
- **Autoimmune diseases** (experimental)
- **Storage diseases**
  - Gaucher's disease
  - Hurler's syndrome
  - Hunter's syndrome



# Malignant disorders

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- **Hematopoitic** neoplasms
  - Acute Leukemia
  - Chronic Leukemia
  - Myelodysplasia
  - Lymphoma
  - Myeloma
- **Solid Tumors**
  - **Breast** cancer
  - **Ovarian** cancer
  - **Testicular** cancer



# Histocompatibility

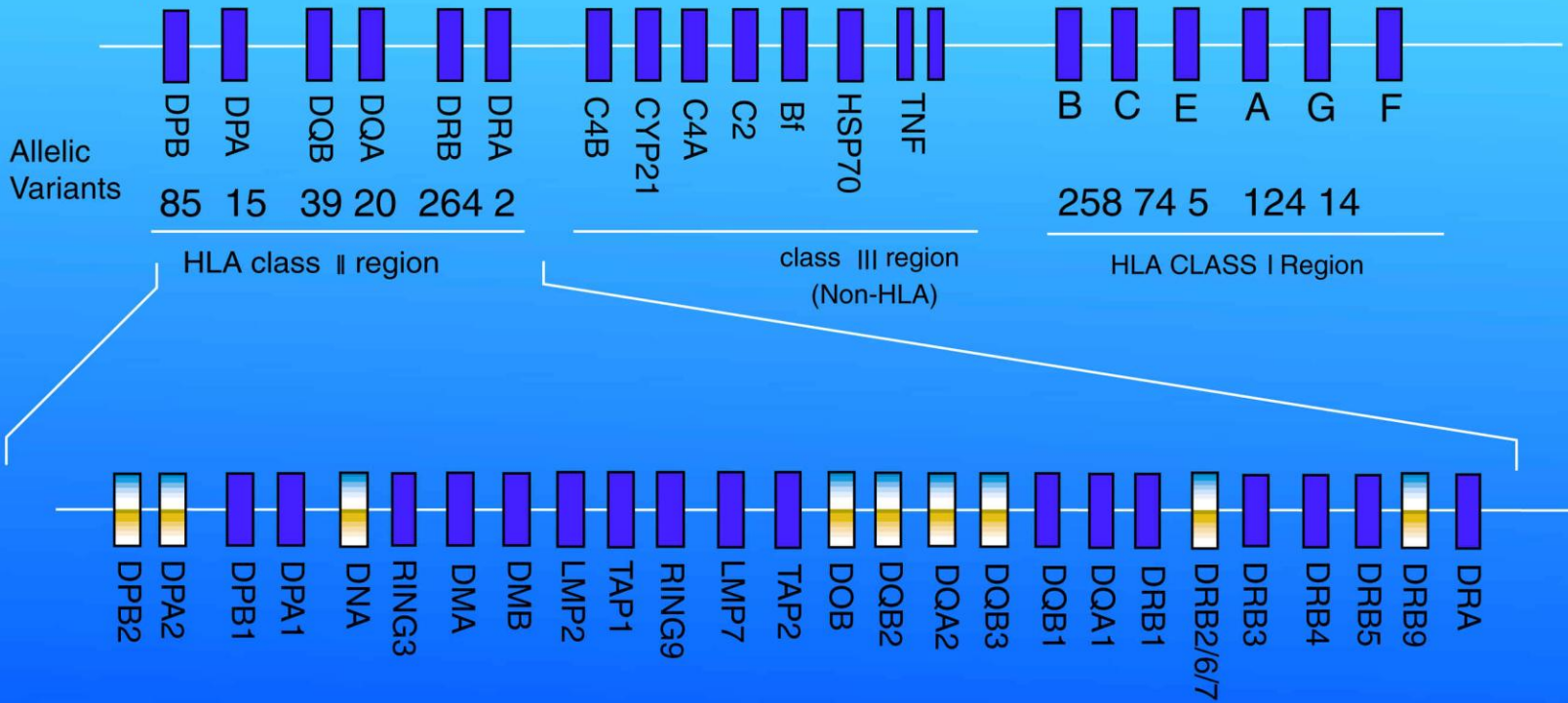
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- Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) typing for allogeneic transplants
  - Class I: HLA-A, -B, -C
  - Class II: HLA-DR, -DP, DQ
- Chromosome **6**
- HLA **-A**, **-B** and **-DR** are the most relevant loci
- -A and -B by **serology** and -DR by **molecular** methodology

# Chromosome 6



## HLA gene complex





# HLA

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- The genes encoding HLA antigens are highly polymorphic ( $10^{23}$ )
- Inherited as **haplotypes**, with only rare crossovers between them
- The odds that any one **sibling** will match a patient are **one in four**
- Within different races, certain haplotypes are far more common
- More problematic for African-American to find an acceptable donor



# Obtaining HLA-matched marrow

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- **National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)** with 4 million potential donors
- Identifying and typing >3 million volunteers, 50% chance of finding HLA-matched donor
- **6 cord blood banks** in the U.S. have been set up under a National Institutes of Health initiative.



# Bone marrow Harvest

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- Aspirated from the donor's iliac crests, under general or spinal anesthesia
- **5-10 mL/kg** of marrow is aspirated, placed in heparinized media, and filtered, to remove fat and bony spicules.
- 2-5% of a person's bone marrow, which the body replaces in four weeks.
- 1.5 to  $5 \times 10^8$  nucleated marrow cells per kilogram



# Bone marrow stem cells

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- Further processings:
  - Removal of red cells in ABO-incompatible transplants
  - Removal of donor T cells to prevent GVHD
  - Removal of contaminating tumor cells in autologous transplantation





# BMT procedure

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- Chemo-radiation (**conditioning or preparative regimen**)
- 1-2 days following conditioning
- In the patient's room
- Stem cells infused through a large-bore central venous catheter
- Usually well tolerated, occasionally fever, cough, or shortness of breath





# Engraftment

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- **2-4 weeks** post-transplant
  - 10-14 d for marrow
  - 7-12 with PBSCs
  - 24 days for cord



# BMT complications

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- **Early** complications:
  - Rejection
  - Acute GVHD
  - Infections; HSV, CMV, PCP
- **Late** complications:
  - Chronic GVHD
  - Prolonged immunodeficiency
  - Relapse



# Graft-Versus-Host Disease

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- Donor T cells transferred, reacting with host cells
- A major complication to allogenic tx
- Much less frequent in fully-matched txs



# GVHD

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- **Acute** (<3 months posttransplant); fever, exfoliative dermatitis, anorexia, vomiting and diarrhea, hepatitis
  - Usually requires skin, liver, or GI biopsy for confirmation
- **Chronic** (>3 months); resembles an autoimmune disorder with skin, liver and GI involvement and less commonly arthritis and obliterative bronchiolitis



# GVHD

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- Cyclosporine
- Removal of T cells with monoclonal Abs
- Higher incidence of engraftment failure and relapse with GVHD prevention
- Cytokines promote stem cell multiplication and maturation
- T cells involved in graft –vs.-tumor effect



# Peripheral blood stem cells

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- 4 or 5 days of hematopoietic growth factor, G-CSF or GM-CSF
- One or two 4-h apheresis sessions



# Umbilical cord stem cells

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- Related and unrelated allogeneic





# Umbilical cord stem cells

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- **Engraftment** at a **slower** pace than seen with a marrow
- Low cell content, limited use as a source of stem cells for adult patients.
- **Less GVHD**



# Umbilical cord blood

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- **Not requiring the exact match**  
(marrow asks that 6/6 protein markers be exact, umbilical cord blood bank needs only 4 and when the donor is a sibling of the recipient, only 3)
- If a child has a serious genetic disease, umbilical cord blood from a sibling born **within two years** may be able to correct it.