



## Late Effects after a Transplant Using Your Own Cells (Autologous Transplant)

Celebrating a Second Chance at Life  
Survivorship Symposium

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# Late Effects of Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

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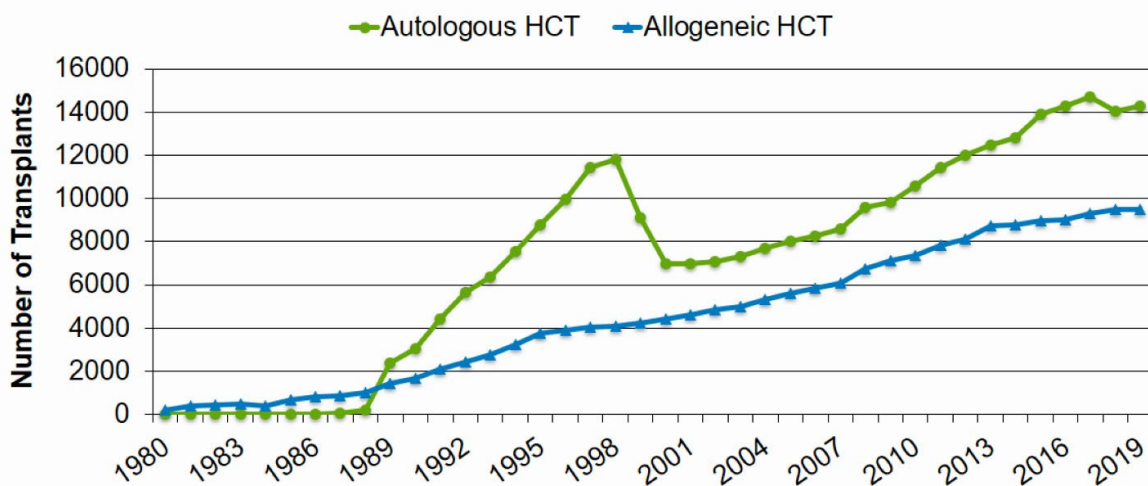
## Objectives

- Review concept of autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (AHSCT)
- Review common illnesses for which we transplant
- Review long term complications:
  - Immunologic/Hematologic issues
  - Late infectious complications/immunizations
  - Pulmonary (BCNU pulmonary toxicity)
  - Endocrine (thyroid, bone health, fertility)
  - Cardiac complications
  - Psychosocial issues



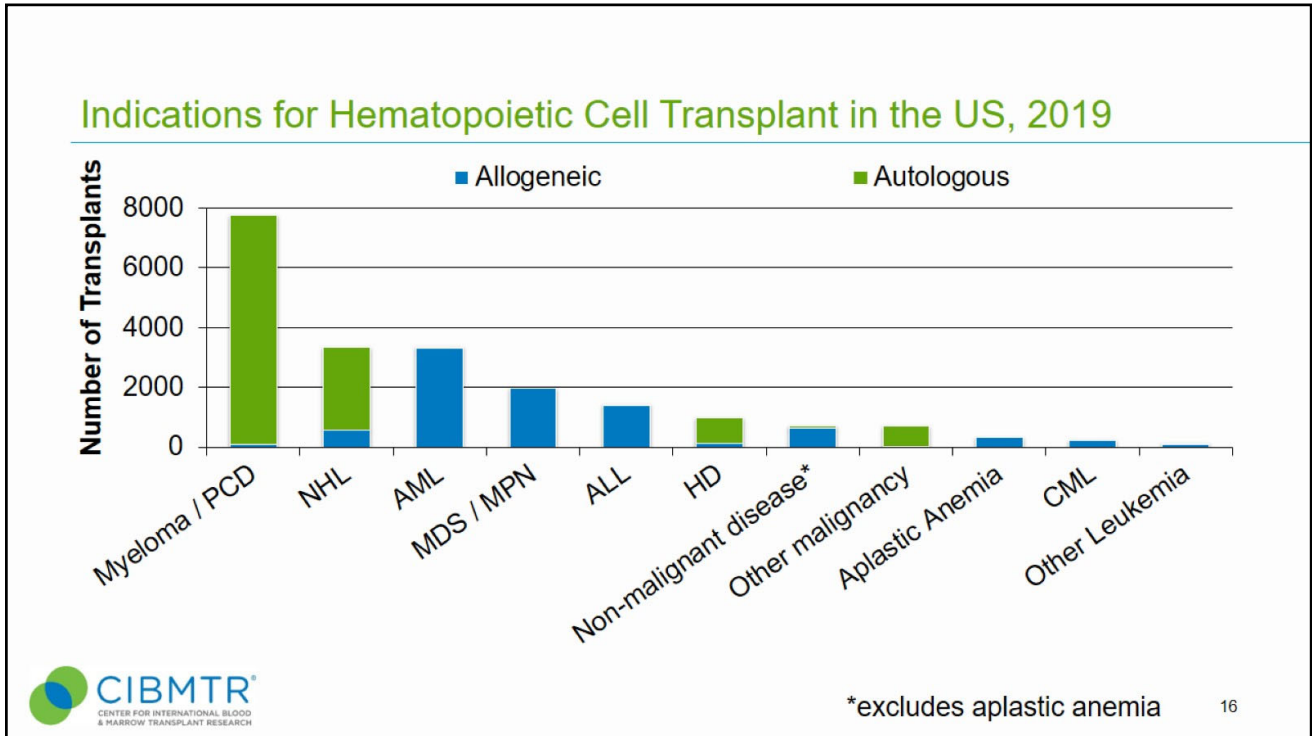
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### Estimated Annual Number of HCT Recipients in the US by Transplant Type

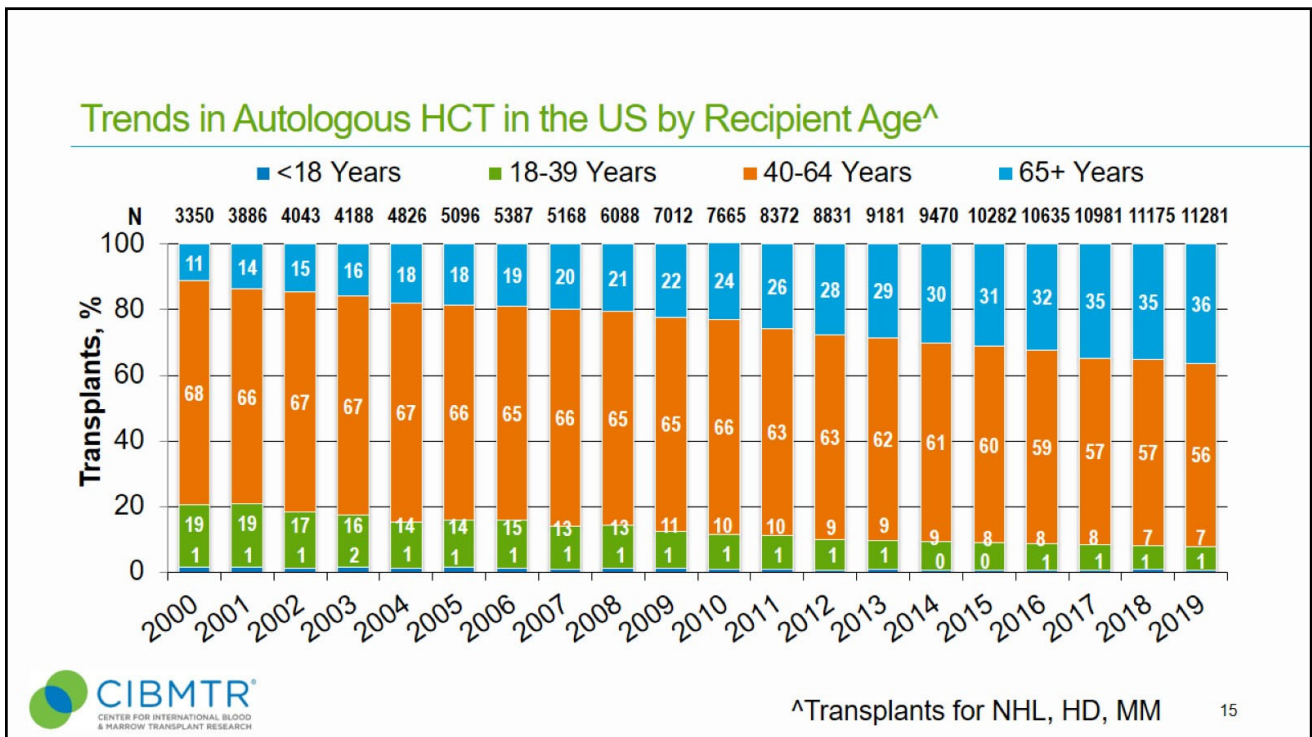


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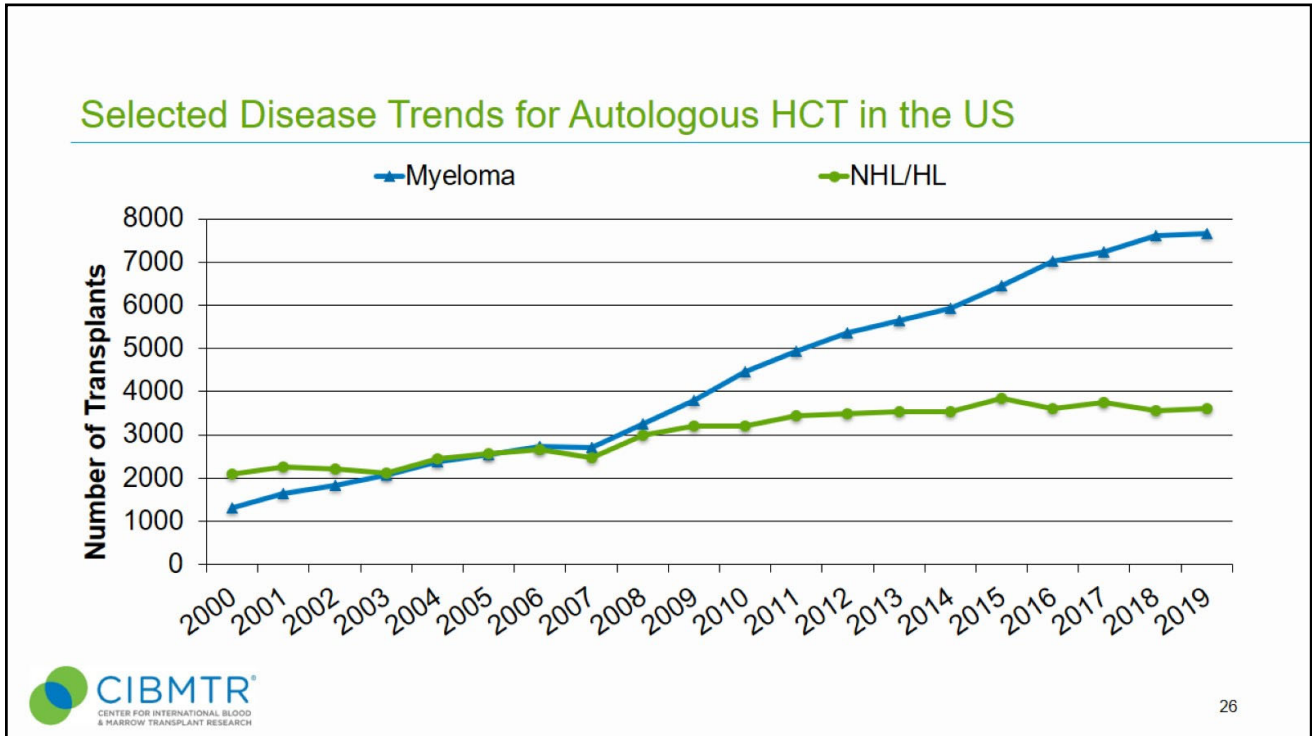
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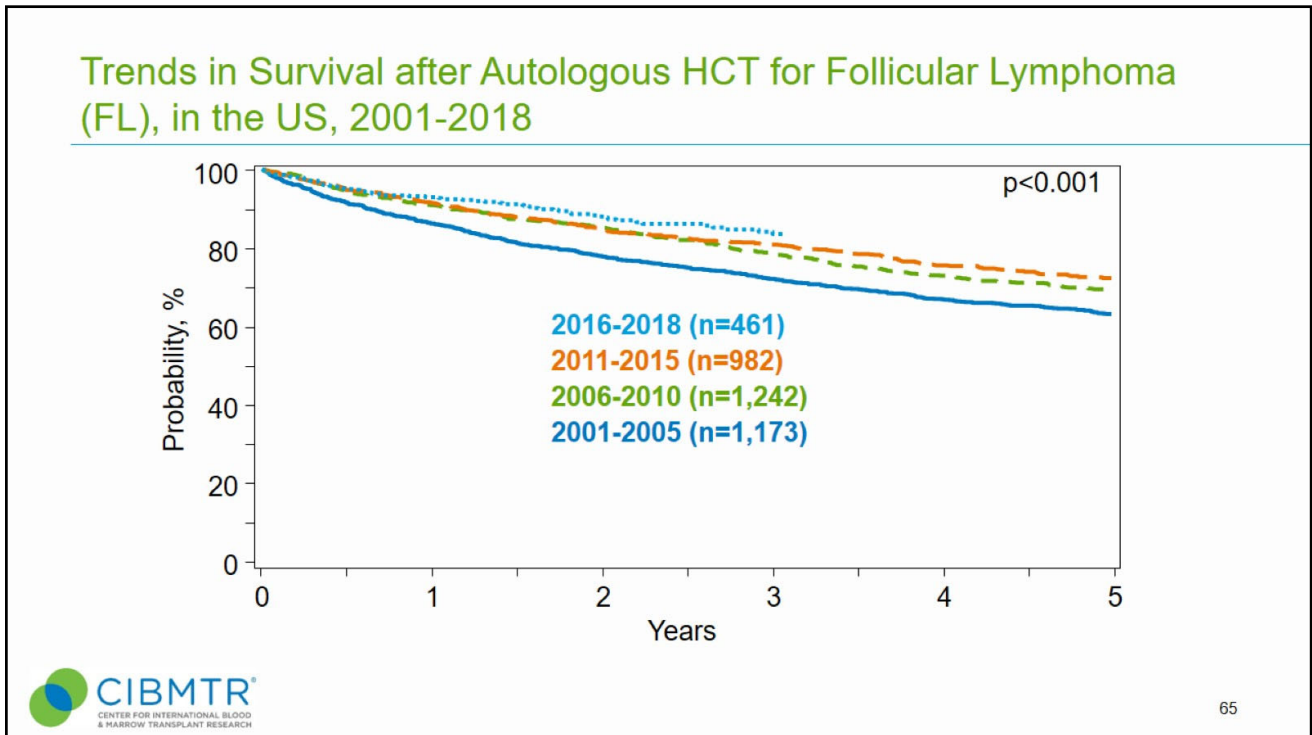
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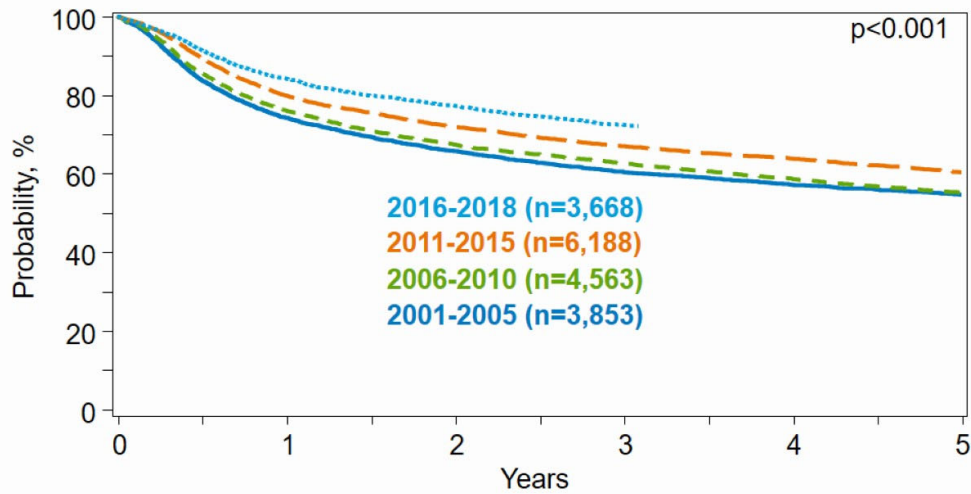


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### Trends in Survival after Autologous HCT for Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL), in the US, 2001-2018



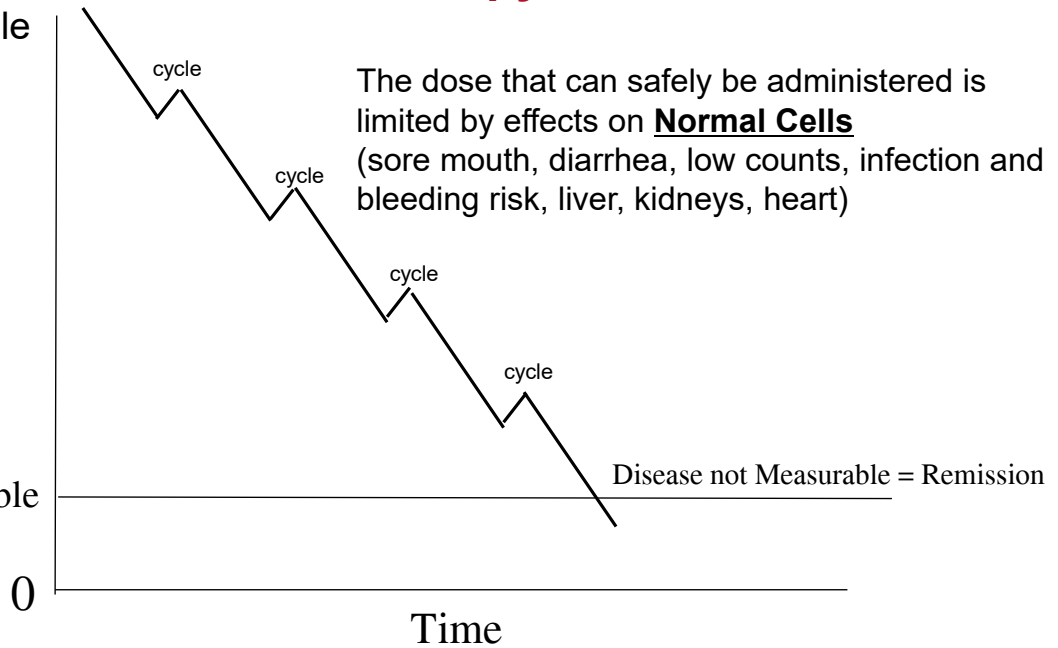
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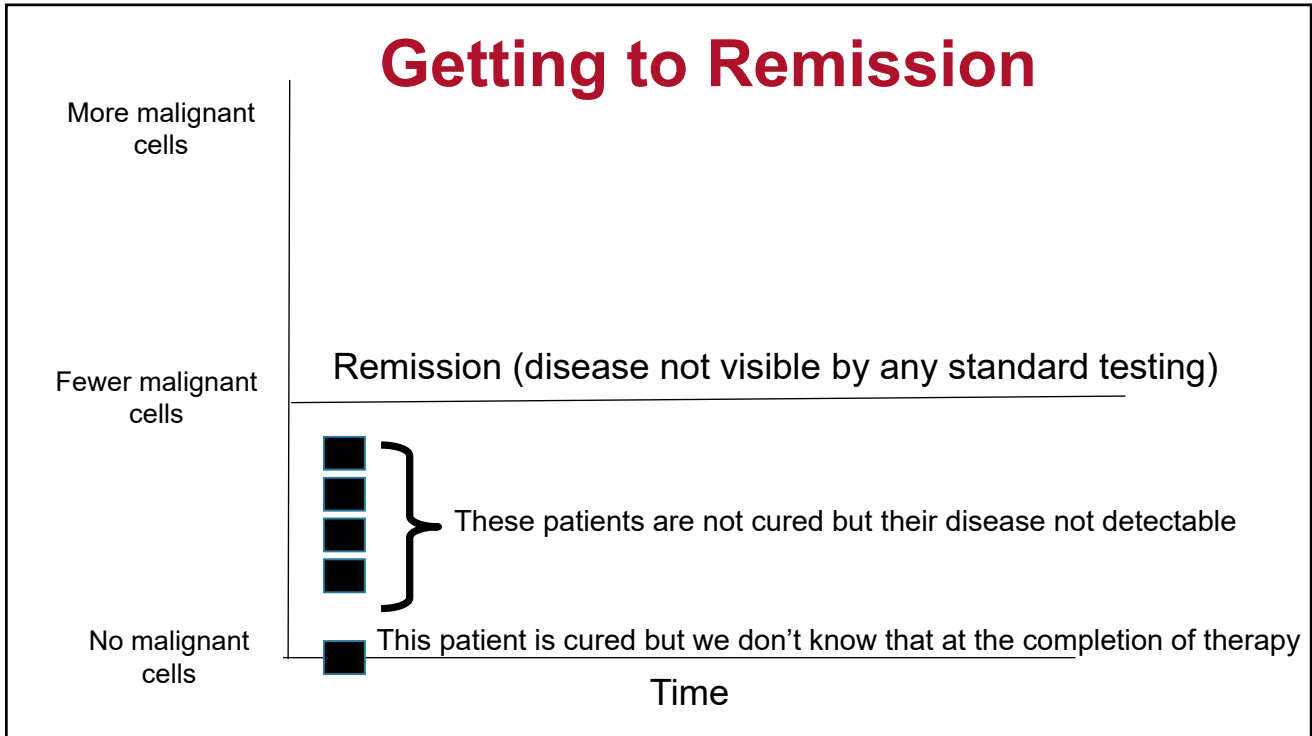
### Effect of Chemotherapy on Tumor Burden

Tumor visible

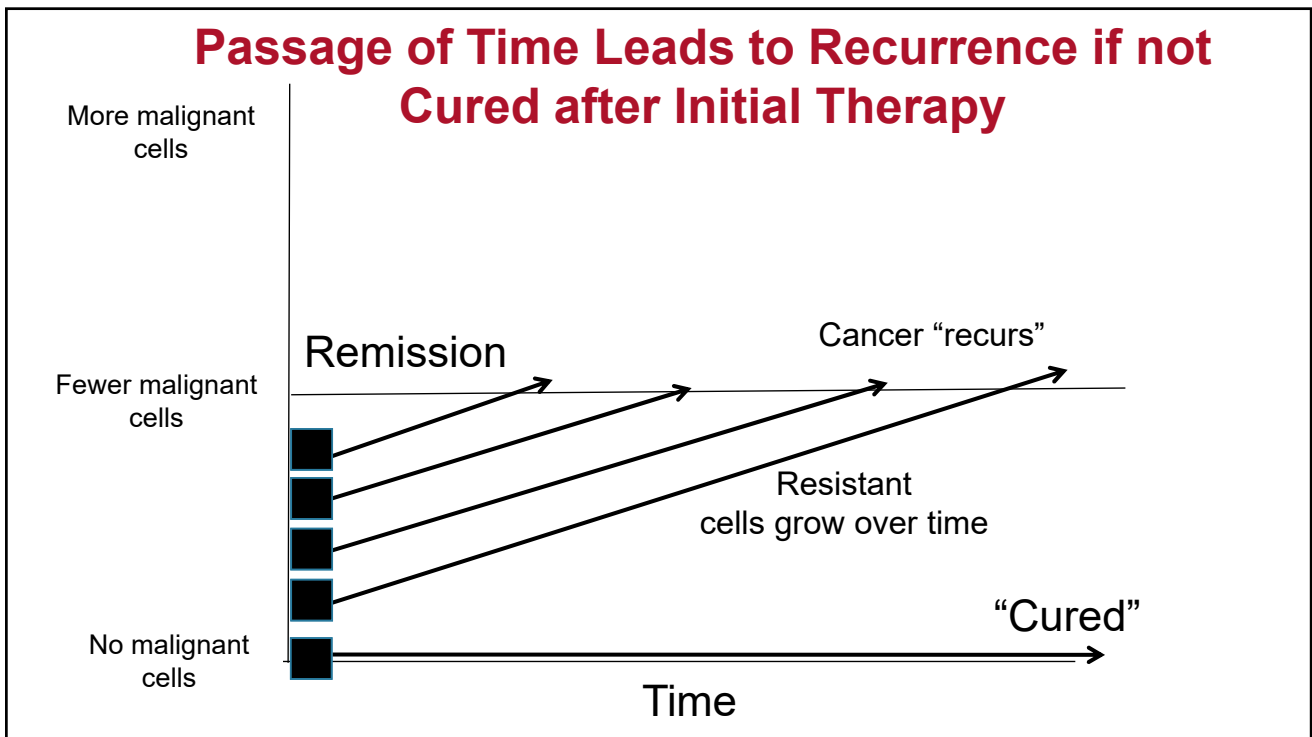
Tumor invisible



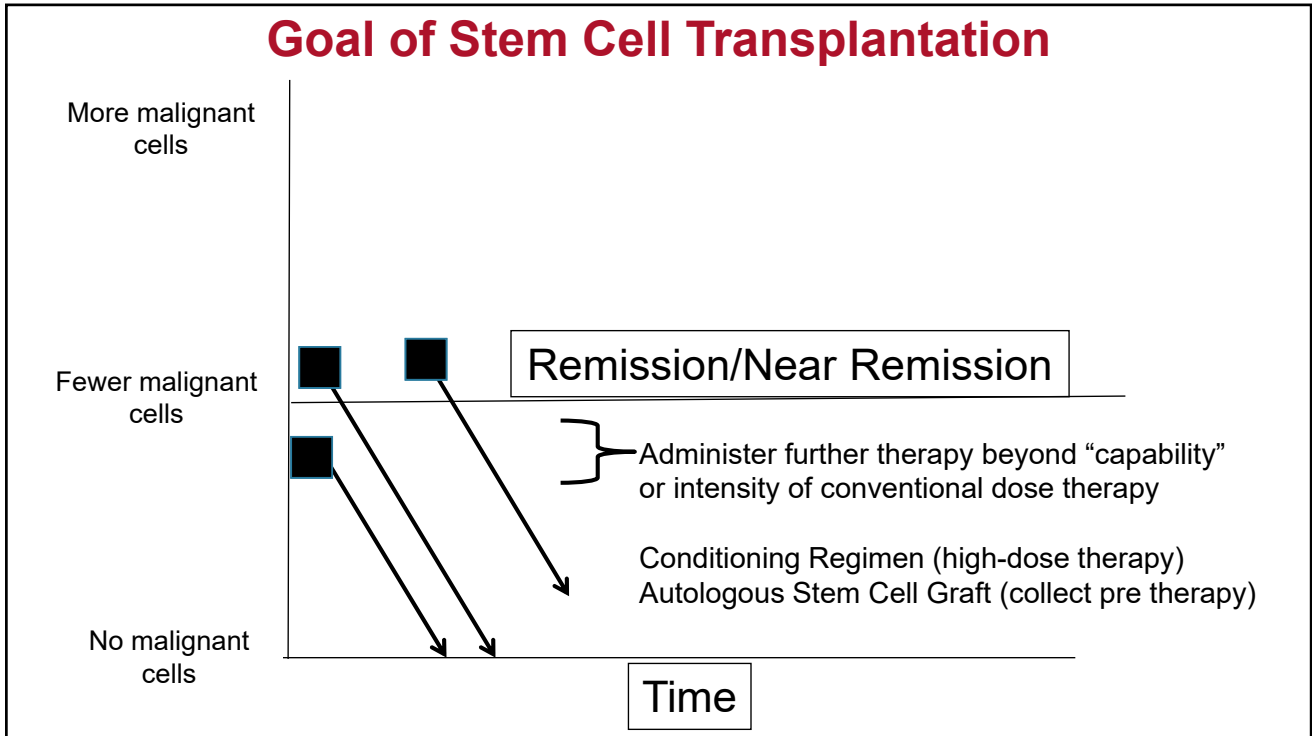
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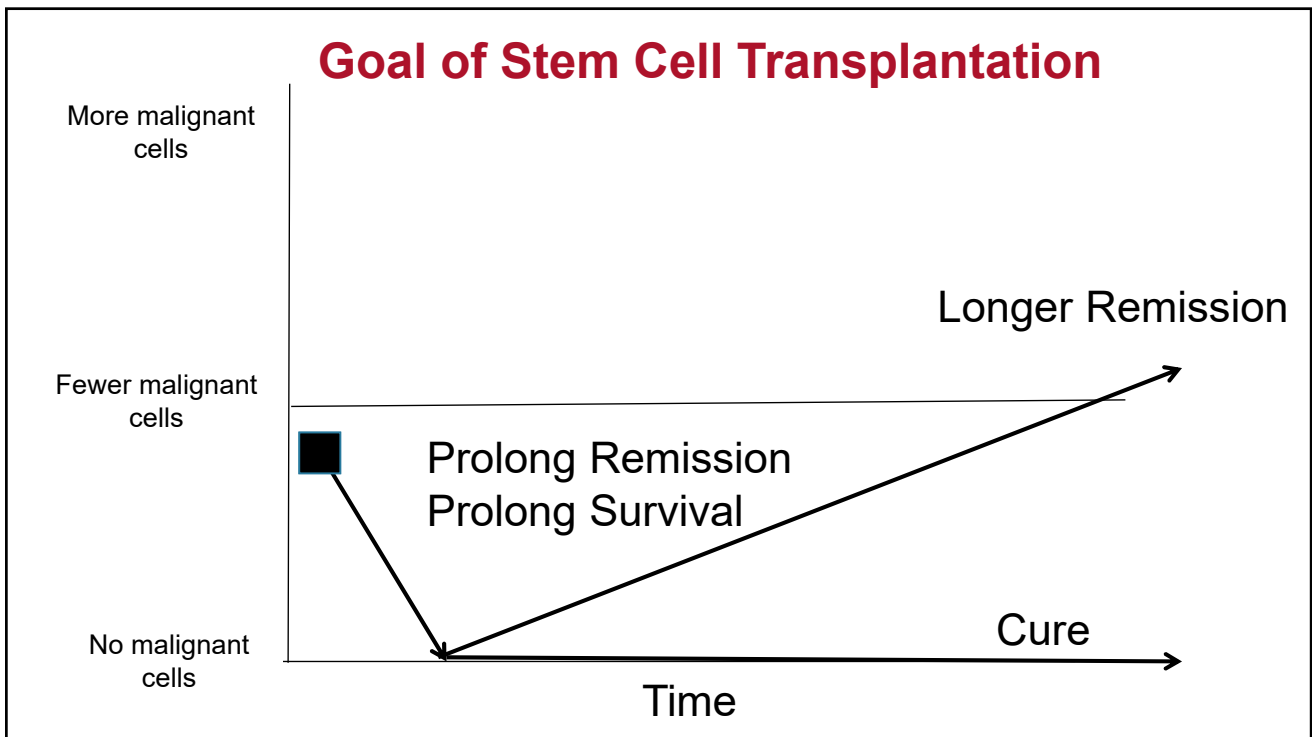
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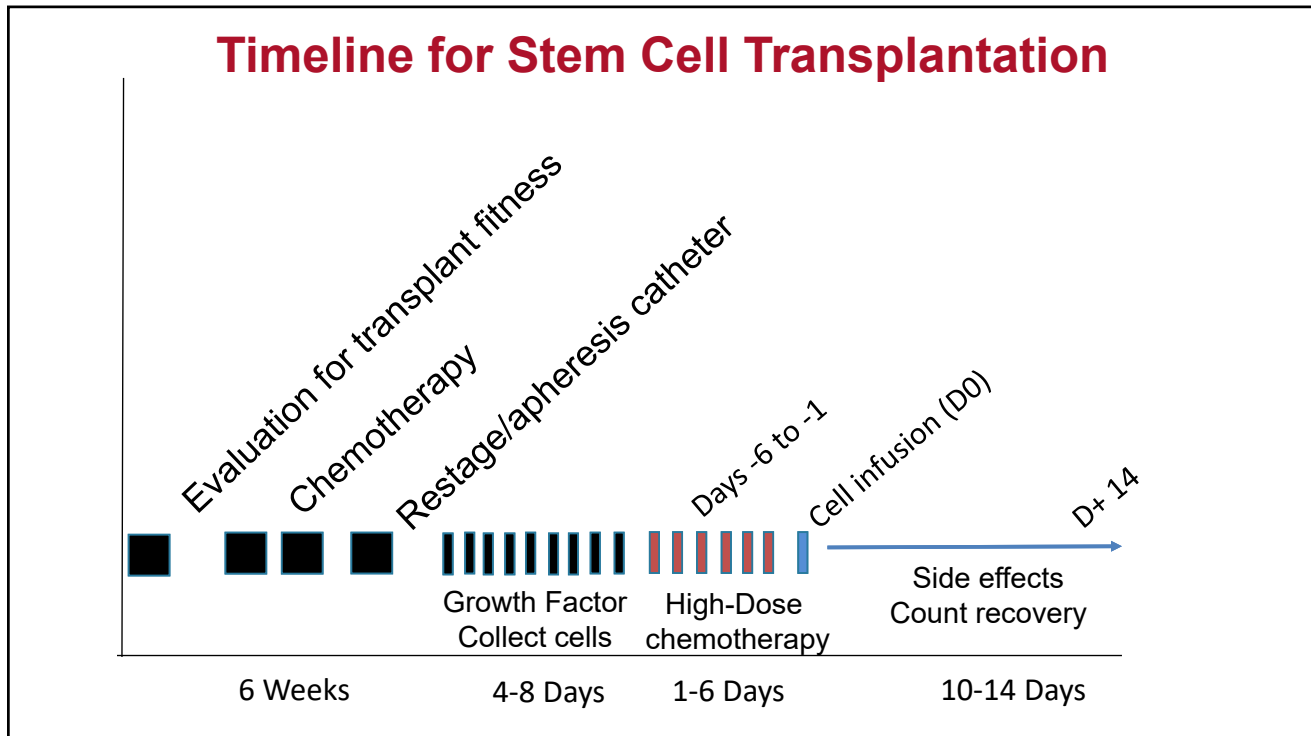
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## Components of Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant

**Preparative Regimen**

- Chemotherapy
- Possibly radiation
- Variable intensities

**Graft Source (autologous or syngeneic)**

- Peripheral blood (stimulated by growth factor)
- Bone marrow (rarely used or required today)

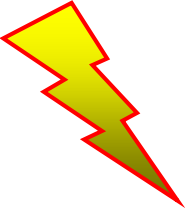



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## Rationale for AHSCT

Preparative Regimen + Rescue Product = Curative Potential + side effects

 +  =


- Temporary Substantial bone marrow suppression
- Modest Degree of Immunosuppression
- Regimen-Related Side-effects Significant
- High-Dose Regimen is the Therapy; cells are support



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## Preventing Recurrence after Transplant

- Maintenance Treatments:
  - Rituximab (mantle cell lymphoma)
  - Lenalidomide (multiple myeloma)
  - Brentuximab (Hodgkin lymphoma)
- Consolidative Radiation
  - To one or two sites of disease that were “largest” pre transplant



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## Survey: Knowledge of Diagnosis and Post-Transplant Complications (3-25 years post transplant)

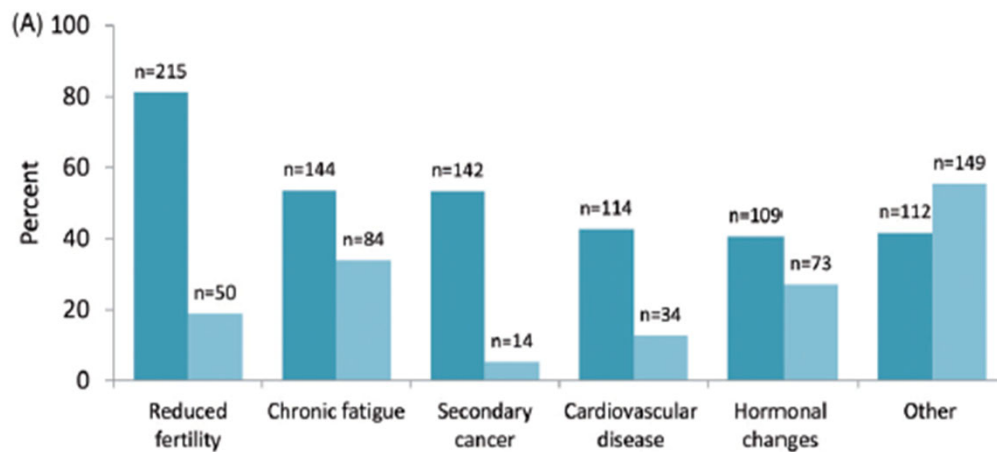
- 81% knew their diagnosis
- 99% knew the “components” of the transplant
- 90% were aware of most possible late effects
- 35% felt they had received follow-up surveillance/discussion of late effects
- Greater knowledge of late effects in the following patients:
  - Younger age at diagnosis
  - Mediastinal radiation
  - Those receiving follow-up care for late adverse effects



ACTA ONCOLOGICA 2019;58:1315

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## Survey: Knowledge of Post-Transplant Complications



ACTA ONCOLOGICA 2019;58:1315

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## “Early” Post-Hospital Recovery Period

- Recover blood counts (days to weeks)
- Recover any other organ toxicity (e.g., kidneys)
- Remove apheresis catheter (days)
- Preventative antibiotics (acyclovir- months)
- Nutritional recovery (weeks to months)
- Muscle mass recovery (weeks to months)
- Begin re-vaccination series



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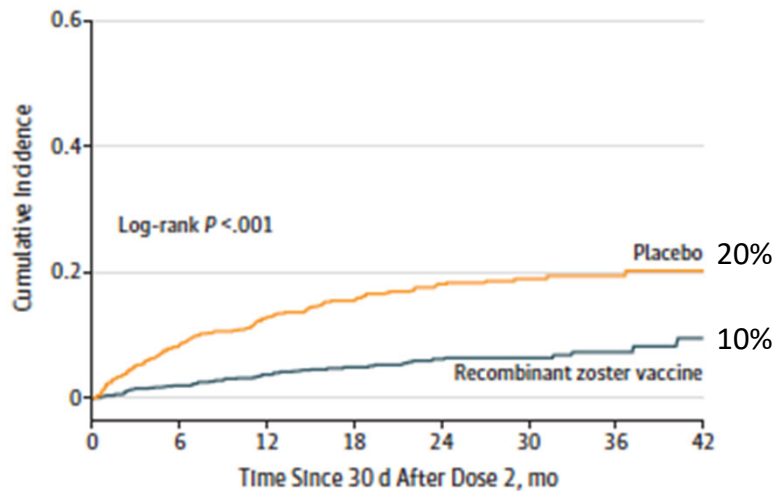
## Early to Middle Post-Hospital Recovery Period: Vaccination

	3 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 mo	2 yr
Pevnar	x	x	x		
Pneumovax				x	
Inact Polio	x	x	x		
HIB	x	x	x		
TDaP		x	x	x	
Hep B		x	x	x	
Influenza	In season				
Zoster		x		x	
** MMR					x x



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## Risk of Zoster (Shingles) after AutoTransplant - Shingrix vaccine



JAMA 2019;322:123

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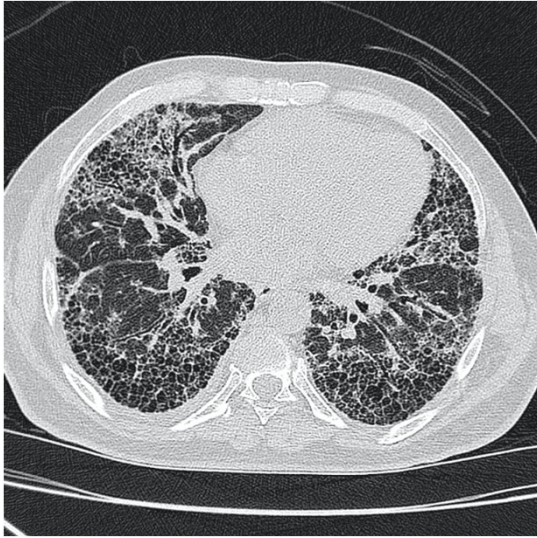
## Early/Middle Post-Hospital Recovery Period - Lung Issues

### “Idiopathic Pneumonia Syndrome”

- Older age at transplant
- Prior radiation or radiation as part of transplant preparative regimen
- Chemotherapy agents with risk:
  - BCNU (BEAM)
  - occasionally prior bleomycin
  - occasionally brentuximab
- Dry Cough, shortness of breath, reduced exercise tolerance
- Exam reveals “crepitations” or “crackles” (like squishing plastic wrap)
- Oxygen levels (saturation) may be normal or reduced
- Requires a high degree of suspicion and prompt evaluation

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## “Interstitial” Pattern of Injury



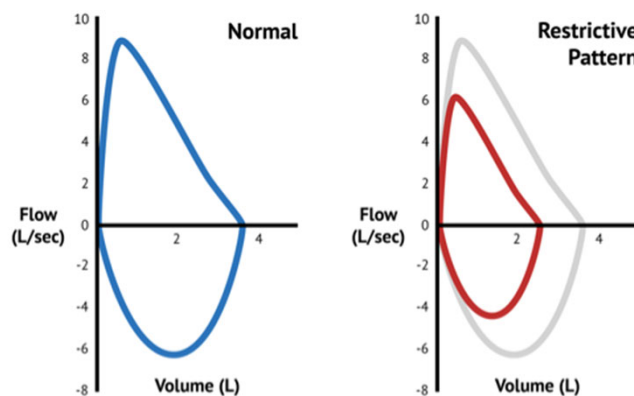
- ? Congestive heart failure
- Nasal washings for infectious causes
- Bronchoscopy for infectious causes
- Occasionally consider lung biopsy
- Treatment: Steroids (evidence is weak)
- Recovery can be complete



Case courtesy of Dr David Cuete, Radiopaedia.org, rID: 27858

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## Lung Function Studies



- 6% of asymptomatic subjects after autologous transplant
- 37% impaired gas transfer
- More likely if current smoker



ACTA ONCOLOGICA 2018; 57:773  
<https://medschool.co/tests/lung-function/flow-volume-loops>

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## Immune Recovery after Transplant (30-365 days)

- WBC/neutrophils generally recover by 10-14 days (growth factor)
- Platelets slightly later; red cells generally last
- Lymphocytes (immune white cells) recover more slowly:
  - Cold sores (herpes simplex)
  - Shingles (herpes zoster)
  - Low immunoglobulin levels (bacterial infection) rarely a problem
  - Respiratory viruses may be more severe in this setting
- Infections relatively uncommon after recovery of cells except zoster (10-35% of patients)



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## Late Neutropenia (30-365 days)

- Low bacteria-fighting blood cell count
- 10 weeks or later post-transplant
- Can last weeks
- Rarely leads to infection
- Associated with prior rituximab (transplant and non-transplant setting)
- Occasionally antibiotics or white blood cell growth factors might be used



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## Late Bacterial Infections

- Uncommon
- Occasionally occur in setting of low immune proteins (immunoglobulins)
- Intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) may be used monthly to “fill” the body with the immune proteins it is not making
- Evidence for its benefit not strong in this setting



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## Risks for Osteoporosis

- Advancing Age/mobility
- Gender (Female)
- Ethnicity (Caucasian, Asian)
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Early Menopause/early testicular hormonal failure (young at BMT)
- Prolonged steroids-highly uncommon in auto-transplant setting
- Myeloma is a special category
- Allogeneic transplantation is a different situation
- Investigations depend on disease and age at transplant



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## Bone Mineral Density after Autologous Transplant

- N=228 subjects Norway
- Bone Mineral Density post autologous transplant
- Age > 18
- Lunar Prodigy DEXA scan

### Compared to population database

	Osteopenia	Osteoporosis	Population Osteoporosis
Male	35%	8%	8%
Female	41%	13%	11%



ACTA ONCOLOGICA, 2017;56;590

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## Breast Health

Chest radiation between 10-30 years of age may increase risk of breast cancer

- Highly dependent on technique, dose, size of field (different in 2020 vs 2000), genetic risk

After age 25:

- Clinical exam starting 8 years after RT
- Annual mammogram 8 yrs after RT but not until age 30
- Annual breast MRI 8 yrs after RT not until age 25
- Breast awareness/education- low evidence no harm



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## Female Sexual Health after Transplant

Female lymphoma subjects - average age 53 compared to control group

- More sexual problems compared to similar aged subjects without transplant
- More sexual discomfort
- Reduced frequency of sexual activity
- Had more sex-related fatigue
- Sexual activity associated with older age, being in a relationship
- Sex-related fatigue was related to being younger, having chronic fatigue, and having ongoing emotional distress



Bone Marrow Transplant 2019

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## Male Sexual Health after Transplant

Male lymphoma subjects - average age 55 compared to control group

- 39% reported sexual satisfaction
- 30% sexual drive only a few days per month
- 41% erections firm enough for sexual activity only a few times per month
- All BFSI (brief sexual function inventory) measures lower
- Presence of cardiovascular disease associated with worse erectile function
- Age > 55, chronic fatigue, physical inactivity associated with lower sexual functioning



Bone Marrow Transplant 2020

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## Fertility after Transplant

- Difficult to know “incidence” of infertility
  - survey
  - pre-existing conditions
  - unknown spousal fertility issues
- General Observations:
  - Can occur after regimens containing radiation
  - Fertility can return in both males and females, generally younger individuals
- Consider a safe waiting period (2 years)
  - Lack of menses does not mean infertility
  - always counsel and assume fertility!



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## Pregnancy Risks after Transplant

- Miscarriages similar to population expected (10%)
- Requirement for Cesarean section may be higher (30%)
- Requirement for assisted fertility techniques (20%)
- Risk of pregnancy-related complications appears similar
- Incidence of pre-term delivery appears similar



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## Working after Transplant

- Generally, recommendation is not to work first 3 months but depends on intensity of job
- Study: N= 274, mean age 52 years
  - 77% working pre-transplant
  - 69% working at time of survey
  - Employment pre transplant predicted for working post-transplant
  - Work hours did drop significantly post transplant
- We advocate short term disability if required and gradual return to full time hours with our input
- Our recommendations based on age, intensity of work, need to work



BMC Cancer 2021; 21:143

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## Secondary Cancers: Risk Factors

- Pre-existing risks (e.g., smoking, alcohol intake)
- Post-transplant maintenance therapy (lenalidomide-multiple myeloma)
- Males may be at more risk
- Early age may be greater risk
- Earlier era of transplant



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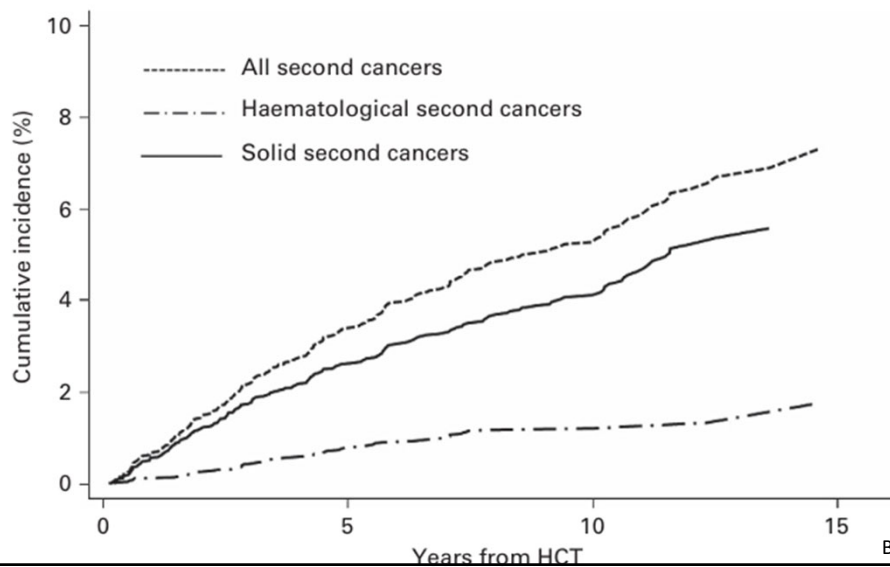
## Secondary Cancers: Types

- Second cancer risk varies by study and type of cancer
- Secondary MDS/AML likely the most common issue:
  - Extent of prior therapy
  - Age at transplant
  - Use of total body radiation (3% vs 10% at 10 years)
  - Prior alkylating agents
  - 5-10 fold increase
- Melanoma may have two-fold increase
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas up to three-fold increase



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## Secondary Cancers after AutoTransplant (n=7765)



Bone Marrow Transplant 2014



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## Heart Health after AutoTransplant

- 10-year cumulative incidence:
  - Ischemic Heart Disease: 3.8%
  - Cardiomyopathy 6% (prior Adriamycin and dose may matter)
  - Stroke 3.5%
- Risks:
  - Pre-transplant smoking, BP, lipids, DM increased risk 1.5 fold
  - Persistence of abnormal BP and lipids at 1 year after transplant associated with increased risk



Biol Blood Marrow Transplant 2014;20:794

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## Summary of Long-Term Follow-Up

Organ/System	What we Measure	What we Do
Thyroid gland function	Thyroid levels (blood)	Treat-Thyroxine
Cataracts	Symptoms/periodic eye exam	Surgically remove- low risk
Bone Health	Fracture Risk/DEXA Testosterone	Calcium, Vitamin D/ Osteoporosis Rx
Breast Health	Mammography/MRI in some	Refer as appropriate
Oral	Dental Evaluations/x-rays	Dental Care

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## Summary of Long-Term Follow-Up

Organ/System	What we Measure	What we Do
Heart Health (heart failure, coronary disease)	Blood Pressure, Lipid levels	Refer/treat as appropriate Stress tests/echo as required Stop smoking
Skin Health	Annual Skin Exam/sun health	Refer as appropriate
Secondary Cancers	Blood Counts, exams	Stop smoking, Investigate as needed
Fertility	Hormone levels Semen Analysis	Pregnancy counseling/birth control
Immune System	Immune globulin levels if repeated infections	Infection prophylaxis Vaccines IVIG occasionally

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## Summary of Life after AHSCT

- Many feel they get back to near 100% of pre-transplant health
- Few are left with major life-altering medical issues
- Fertility can return in younger individuals
- Normal work life can resume
- Psychological health is important
- Age-appropriate health screening/vaccines
- Sun safety
- Appropriate follow-up for transplant-related medical issues



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# Questions?



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