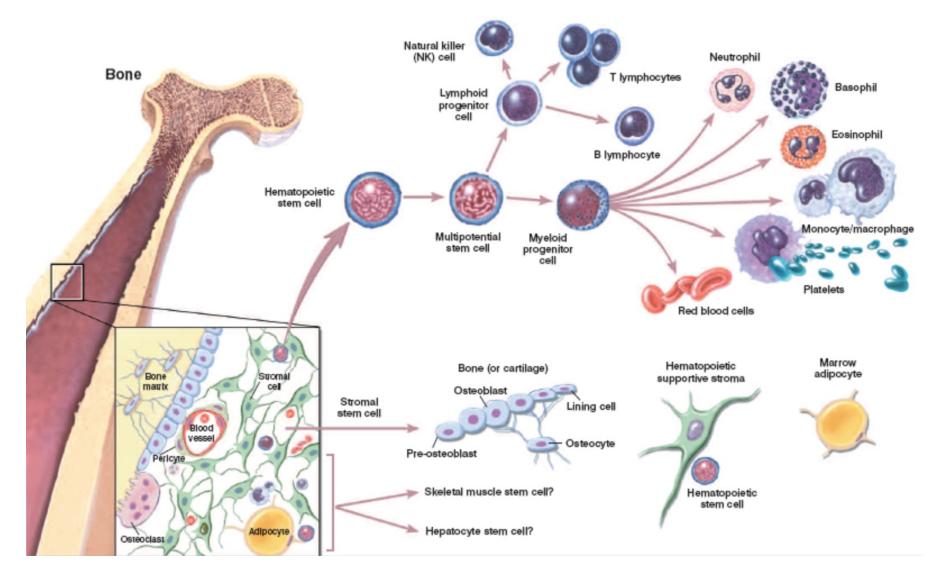


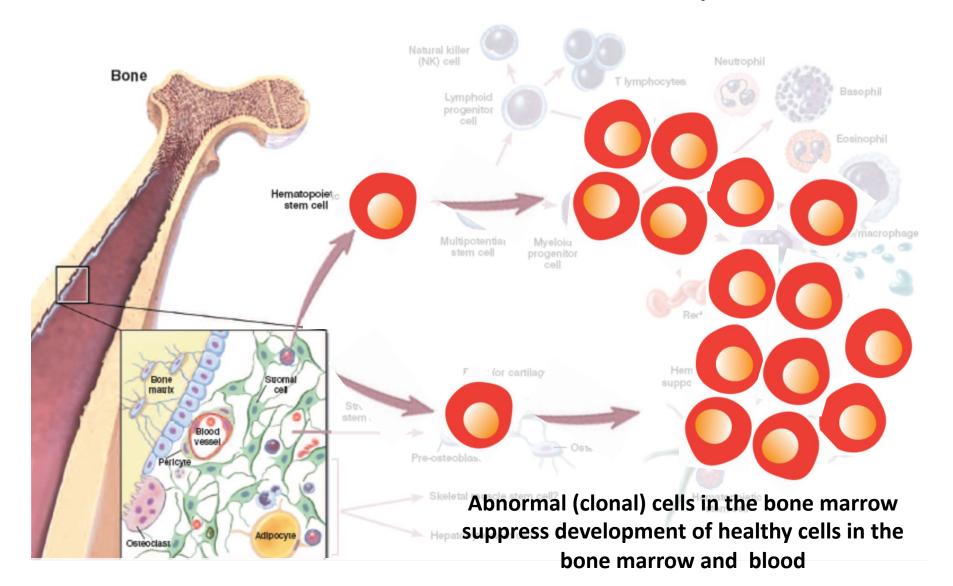
## Allogeneic Transplant in MDS

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### Normally....



### Genetic mutations alter hematopoiesis



## Transplant in MDS

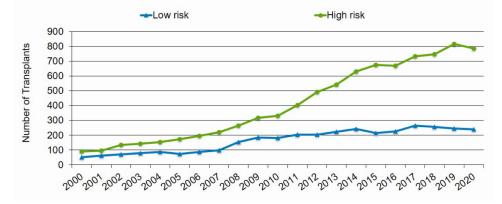
- MDS is a clonal stem cell disorder
  - Curing MDS = permanently eliminating this clone
- Transplant = replacing the recipient's stem cells with new stem cells from a donor (allogeneic transplant/HCT)
- Allogeneic transplant is a <u>potentially curative</u> treatment
- Allogeneic transplant uses:
  - Chemotherapy to suppress recipient immune system and to reduce disease burden in marrow (both variable)
  - Donor's immune system develops in the recipient and helps to keep MDS in remission

# Use of Allogeneic HCT in MDS

- SEER Database: 10,000 people/year in the US are diagnosed with MDS:
  - Ages 65-69: 13.9 per 100,000 people
  - Age >85: 64 per 100,000 people

• CIBMTR: ~1,000 MDS patients undergo allogeneic transplant/year

Number of Allogeneic HCTs for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) by Disease Status in the US



• Why do only a minority (10%) of MDS patients receive this potentially curative treatment?

Source: SEER database CIBMTR Summary Slides

# Two (very) Different People with MDS



Patient #1



Patient #2



### Patient #1

- 77-year-old female who lives independently was found on routine bloodwork to have mild, isolated macrocytic anemia (Hgb 10.2g/dl)
- Other medical problems: History of stroke, coronary artery disease with myocardial infarction, high blood pressure, and chronic kidney disease
- Work-up for alternative causes of anemia was negative. Bone marrow biopsy showed mild, single lineage dysplasia with <5% blasts.</li>
  FISH/cytogenetics are normal.
- Sequencing (NGS) shows mutation in DNMT3A
- Revised IPSS score: 1, Category: Very Low
- Expected survival: 8.8 years with low risk of transformation to AML



## Patient #2

- 51-year-old female with history of breast cancer six years prior. Treated with surgery/chemo/radiation. No other medical history.
- During follow-up, found to have WBC: 2k, ANC: 800, hemoglobin 8g/dl, and platelet count of 40k
- Bone marrow biopsy showed multilineage dysplasia with 10-15% blasts. Cytogenetics showed complex karyotype
- Sequencing (NGS) shows two mutations in the TP53 gene
- Revised IPSS score: 9, Category: Very High
- Expected survival: 0.8 years
- Median time for 25% of patients to evolve to AML: 0.7 years

### Summary: Two Different People with MDS



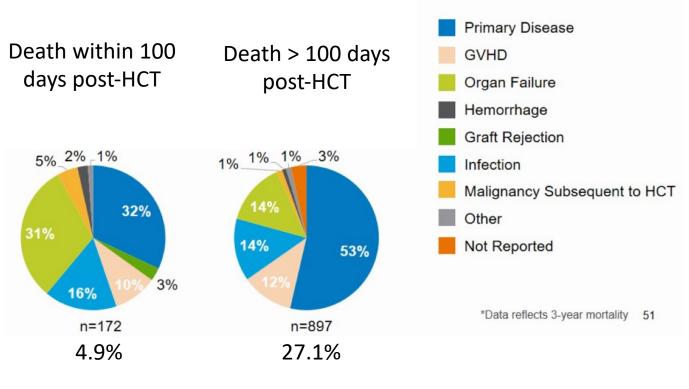
Patient #1 MDS risk: Low Needs Tx: No #/severity of other medical problems: High ? Die from MDS: Unlikely Ability to withstand intensive treatment: Unlikely



Patient #2 MDS risk: High Needs Tx: Yes #/severity of other medical problems: Low/none ? Die from MDS: Likely Ability to withstand intensive treatment: Likely

# Transplant is not without risk

- Causes of death within 100 days:
  - Primary disease (32%)
  - Organ failure (31%)
  - Infection (16%)
  - GVHD (10%)
- Cause of death between 100 days and 3 years:
  - Primary disease (53%)
  - Organ failure (14%)
  - Infection (14%)
  - GVHD (12%)



Total HCTs: 3,484

CIBMTR Summary Slides 2018-2019 MRD HCTs

Red text = conditions that can be/are likely worsened by HCT.

# Balancing Curative Therapy vs Risks of **Curative Therapy**

#### **Risks of Transplant:**

- Infection
- Graft vs. Host Disease
- New/worsening organ dysfunction
- Risk of disease relapse ٠
- Reduced quality of life ٠
- **Financial toxicity**
- Others

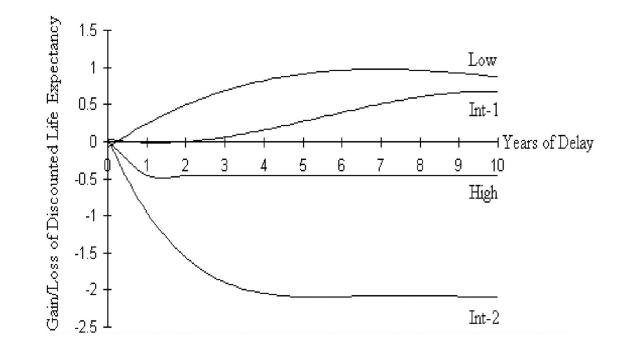


#### **Benefits of Transplant:**

- Transfusion independence
- Reduced risk of leukemic transformation
- Potential for cure

# Disease Biology (Risk) Drives Timing

- Lessons learned from 2004 still guide practice today.
- Patients with lower risk MDS have a survival advantage when transplant is delayed.
- Patients with higher risk MDS benefit from transplant early in their treatment course.



Cutler C, Blood, 2004

## Limitations of this work:

- Median age of the cohort was young (<50 years old)
  - Median age of MDS patients is 70
- Patients received high intensity conditioning chemotherapy
  - Reduced intensity conditioning is used more frequently in elderly patients
- Patients were transplanted from Jan 1990 to Dec 1999
  - Transplant is safer/supportive care now
- IPSS has been replaced by newer, more sophisticated scoring systems
- Treatment for MDS/AML has improved since the 90s

### Other Factors That Convey Risk

- Molecular mutations (i.e., TP53)
- History of prior chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or occupational exposure (i.e., secondary MDS)
- Failure of front-line therapy (?)

# Two (very) Different People with MDS



Patient #1

Disease risk: Low Molecular Mut: No Prior chemo/XRT: No

**Delay Transplant** 



### Patient #2

Disease risk: Very High Molecular Mut: *TP53* Prior chemo/XRT: Yes

Early Transplant

## When is it time to prepare for HCT?

- <u>Some</u> examples of disease progression
  - A patient who has been transfusion independent begins to need packed red blood cell (PRBC) or platelet transfusions
  - A patient who needed PRBC transfusions became transfusion independent with treatment. He/she is now needing them again
  - A patient with stable disease has new cytogenetic or NGS abnormalities on a repeat bone marrow biopsy

### When is it time to prepare for HCT?

The decision to proceed with allogeneic HCT requires a personalized approach and is based on the disease risk, age and other medical problems, and their beliefs and wishes/desires.

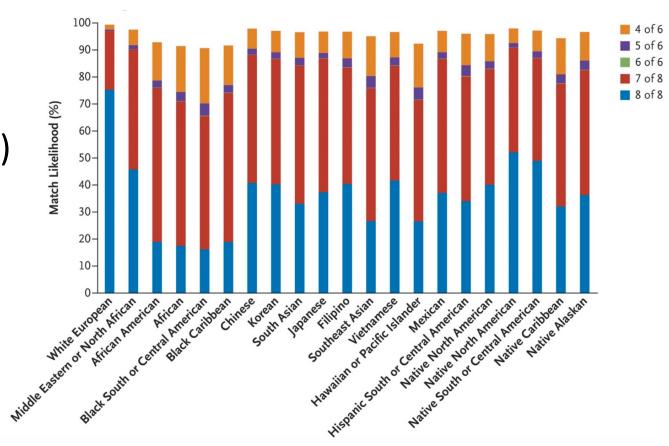
Your physician(s)/APP(s) will help you to weigh the risks and benefits of transplant and make the decision that is right for you or your family member.

# A few words about allogeneic HCT

- HLA typing, identifying and evaluating a donor, and collecting the donor's cells can take several weeks
- Human leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing is performed to profile your immune system so that a match can be identified
- Your doctor may prescribe treatment for MDS prior to transplant to:
  - Reduce your disease burden
  - Reduce the risk of developing acute myeloid leukemia
  - Reduce the number of transfusions you receive prior to HCT

# Donors

- Full match = 12/12 (MUD/MRD)
- <u>Haplo</u>identical = 6/12
- Siblings have:
  - 1:4 (25%) chance of being a full match (MRD).
  - 2:4 (50%) chance of being a half match (haplo)
  - 1:4 (25%) chance of not matching.
- Children are almost always haploidentical matches



 Likelihood of identifying an unrelated donor depends on racial/ethnic group

Gragert L, NEJM, 2014

# Donors (Cont)

- Centers may use umbilical cord blood units or mismatched unrelated donors (mMUD).
  - Use of these graft types/sources are now safer than ever
- Nearly all patients have a donor and can proceed with allogeneic HCT if needed
- If multiple donors are present, many factors go into selecting the best of these options. This is handled by the transplant team

My advice after 7 years of seeing MDS patients undergoing allogeneic HCT

- If you can safely delay transplant do it!
- Delays prior to transplant are very common do your best to roll with them!
  - Donor issues, disease, infections, etc
- Setbacks are a normal part of transplant.
- Exercise, eat well/drink well, and enjoy the journey.

Thank you for your attention!

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