

FINLEY, 9,
blood stem cell
recipient and blood
cancer survivor



BLOOD STEM CELL DONATION

If your tissue characteristics match those of a patient, you will be asked to provide a blood sample for further medical testing. If the results suggest that you are a suitable donor, you will be asked to donate in one of two ways. Depending on the patient's need, you should be willing to donate using either method.



1. PERIPHERAL BLOOD STEM CELL COLLECTION

This method is carried out 90% of the time

Peripheral blood stem cell collection is the most commonly performed donation method. On the day of donation, the donor's blood is collected from one arm and passed through a machine that separates out the blood stem cells. This process is known as apheresis. The remaining blood is returned to the donor through the other arm. This is a non-surgical outpatient procedure that takes approximately four hours to complete. For four consecutive days prior to the stem cell collection, donors receive a daily injection to stimulate blood stem cell production (G-CSF) and increase the number of stem cells in the blood stream.



2. BONE MARROW COLLECTION

This method is carried out 10% of the time

Marrow cells are collected from the back side of the hip bone (not the spine). This is a 1-2 hour inpatient procedure under general anaesthetic. Some donors experience short-term discomfort, bruising and stiffness following the procedure. Within a week of donating, most donors are able to return to work or school and resume their usual activities.

“We're so thankful that Finley has been given a second chance at life.”

CAROLE, Finley's mum

ANY QUESTIONS?

For more information, please visit our website: dkms.org.uk

ABOUT US

Our story began in 1991, when our founder, Dr. Peter Harf, lost his wife Mechtild to leukaemia. Peter promised his wife to help every blood cancer patient searching for a matching donor. At that time, there were only 3,000 potential donors available to provide a transplant in Germany. Peter Harf founded DKMS Germany, and within just one year the number of blood stem cell donors increased to 68,000. This was reason enough for our founder to believe in his vision - to delete blood cancer - and to give every blood cancer patient a second chance at life.

In 2004, we embarked on our international journey by establishing offices in the United States of America, and we continued the expedition with openings in 2009 in Poland, in 2011 in Spain and in 2013 in the UK. We strive for a future with more blood cancer survivors and, as we internationalise further, we take a more comprehensive approach to achieve our goal.

YOU CAN HELP BY

- registering as a potential blood stem cell donor at dkms.org.uk
- asking your family and friends to register
- organising a donor registration event in your area
- becoming a volunteer
- becoming a student ambassador
- becoming a partner
- fundraising on our behalf
- joining us on facebook: [/DKMS.uk](https://www.facebook.com/DKMS.uk)
- joining us on twitter: [@DKMS_uk](https://twitter.com/DKMS_uk)

DKMS

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DKMS 
WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER



HOW YOU
CAN SAVE
A LIFE

JOIN THE REGISTER

TOGETHER AGAINST BLOOD CANCER

We launched in the UK in February 2013 with a key mission to increase the pool of lifesaving blood stem cell donors. We believe that not one single person suffering with a blood cancer should die because they are unable to find a matching donor.

Every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma.

Blood cancers affect the production and function of your blood cells. For many blood cancer patients, a stem cell donation is their best and often only chance of survival.

That is why every single donor counts. Everyone has the chance to save a life. It could be YOU! The only way we can win the race to save lives is by working together!

- Blood stem cell donations provide lifesaving treatments for patients with blood cancer or blood disorders by replacing their unhealthy cells with healthy blood-forming cells
- Around 70% of patients in need of a matching donor rely on the UK Blood Stem Cell Registry for an opportunity to find an unrelated donor
- Because there is a severe shortage of registered donors, the probability of finding a match can be very low

BEAT THE ODDS

Around 50% of patients never find a match. To be deemed as a match the donor and patient must have at least eight out of ten tissue characteristics (HLA) in common.

With more than 8,500 known characteristics that can occur in millions of combinations, finding a match is extremely rare. Patients of diverse ethnic backgrounds tend to have a wider variety of HLA types, making it exceptionally difficult to find a match.



“It feels amazing to be a lifesaver. Donating some of my stem cells was so easy, it was a bit like giving blood.”

SOHEL, blood stem cell donor

CAN YOU REGISTER?

To register as a potential blood stem cell donor you must be between the ages of 17 – 55, and in general good health. If you meet these requirements, you can complete a consent form and swab the inside of your cheeks to collect your all-important cells.

Your HLA characteristics will be listed anonymously on the UK Blood Stem Cell Registry for potential matching with patients, who could live anywhere in the world. You may then have the opportunity to be a lifesaving donor for any person in need until the date of your 61st birthday.

HOW TO REGISTER

DKMS organises donor recruitment events throughout the country to register new potential donors. You can register in person at a donor registration event, or order a ‘cheek swab’ registration kit online. The registration process involves providing consent and swabbing the inside of your cheeks. The swabs are then sent off for a full medical analysis in the lab to determine your tissue characteristics (HLA).

ANY QUESTIONS?

For more information, please visit our website [dkms.org.uk](https://www.dkms.org.uk) or call 020 8747 5620