

Transplant and Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS)

Learning more about your child's treatment options can help you make informed medical decisions.

This fact sheet **tells you:**

- What WAS is
- What the transplant steps are
- When to see a transplant doctor
- Questions to ask your doctor

What is **WAS**?

WAS is an inherited immune system disorder. The immune system helps the body fight infections. In WAS, the immune system doesn't work very well. Babies born with WAS have many infections and bruise or bleed easily.

What is a **blood or marrow transplant (BMT)**?

BMT, also called bone marrow transplant, is the only known cure for WAS. It replaces the unhealthy immune system with a healthy one. Blood-forming cells create the immune system.

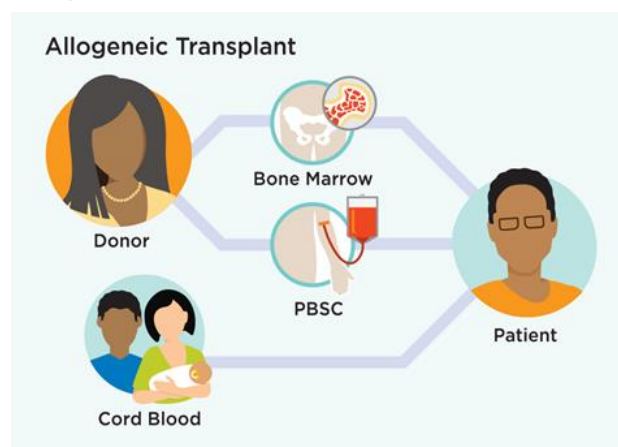
The type of BMT that treats WAS is called an **allogeneic transplant**. It uses healthy blood-forming cells donated by someone else to replace the unhealthy immune system. These healthy cells can come from a family member, unrelated donor, or umbilical cord blood.

Allogeneic transplant steps

1. First, your doctor searches for your child's donor. This can take weeks to months.
2. Then, your child will get chemotherapy, and possibly radiation, to kill the unhealthy cells. This can take up to 2 weeks.
3. On transplant day, the donated cells are given to your child through an intravenous (IV) infusion. The new cells travel to the inside of their bones.

4. After a few weeks, the donated cells begin to make healthy blood cells.
5. Then, your child will need many months to recover. Your child will spend some of this time in or near the hospital.

Doctors, nurses and social workers will closely care for your child during the entire process to prevent and treat any side effects or complications.



When to **see a transplant doctor**

Most children have a better chance of a cure if they have a transplant soon after diagnosis.

Your child should see a transplant doctor as soon as they're diagnosed.

Your first appointment with a transplant doctor

At the first appointment, the transplant doctor will:

- Review your child's medical history
- Talk with you about treatment options and their risks and benefits
- Recommend the best time for your child to get a transplant and prepare for treatment
- Start a donor search

Questions to ask your doctor

- What are my child's chances of a cure with transplant? Without transplant?

- What are the possible side effects of transplant? How can they be reduced?

- How might my child's quality of life change over time, with or without transplant?

Resources for you

Talk to someone who can help:

- Contact a BMT Patient Navigator:
 - Call: 1 (888) 999-6743
 - Email: patientinfo@nmdp.org

Order free resources to learn more. To see a full list, visit [BeTheMatch.org/request](https://www.bethematch.org/request).

Here are some that you might find helpful:

- VIDEO: *Basics of Blood and Marrow Transplant*
- VIDEO: *Super Sam Versus the Marrow Monsters*
- BOOKLET: *Transplant Basics*
- BROCHURE: *Transplant Outcomes and Treatment Decisions*



AT EVERY STEP, WE'RE **HERE TO HELP**

Be The Match has a team dedicated to providing information and support to you before, during, and after transplant. You can contact our Patient Support Center to ask questions you may have about transplant, request professional or peer support, or receive free patient education materials.

CALL: **1 (888) 999-6743** | EMAIL: patientinfo@nmdp.org | WEB: [BeTheMatch.org/one-on-one](https://www.bethematch.org/one-on-one)



Every individual's medical situation, transplant experience, and recovery is unique. You should always consult with your own transplant team or family doctor regarding your situation. This information is not intended to replace, and should not replace, a doctor's medical judgment or advice.