



AAPI STEM CELL/BONE MARROW DONATION DRIVE

Background

Thousands of patients with blood cancers like leukemia or lymphoma need blood stem cell transplant to survive. Matching the stem cell or bone marrow donors to patients is based on Human leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing. HLA are Proteins or markers found on most cells in our body and they are inherited from our biological parents and are largely depend on ethnicity.

Problem

In general, 70% of patients needing a stem cell transplant don't have a fully matched donor in their family and approximately 12,000 patients per year depend on transplant from an unrelated donor to survive. These numbers are even dire for cancer patients of Indian ethnicity as the donor pool of Indian ethnicity is very limited.

Solution

American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) has partnered with National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) to increase the Indian donor pool. You can join the NMDP Registry if you're between the ages of 18-40, a resident of the United States, and don't have major medical illnesses.

Registration

Registration is easy. You just need to log in with the QR code provided and register with your details at the NMDP website. They will send you a cheek swab kit which you need to return to them. They will perform the HLA typing of your DNA and store the information in their data base.

If Matched

If you're a match to a patient who needs stem cells, you'll be asked to provide blood samples for further testing. Blood work is typically done locally. Travel will likely be required for donation. It costs you nothing to donate. NMDP pays for all donation-related expenses. The donation process takes an average of 20-30 hours spread over 4-6 weeks.

You could be a patient's only match-their only hope for a cure. When you register, you're committing to donating to any patient in the world. But because a decision not to donate can be life-threatening to the patient, please think seriously about your commitment before joining the registry.

Complications to the Donor:

There are absolutely no complications to the donor from this donation procedure.

Dr. Sateesh Kathula, an Oncologist based in Dayton, OH and the President of AAPI and Dr. Sashi Kuppala, Chairman of the AAPI Stem Cell Drive will be happy to educate about the donation process and answer any questions.