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Resources, Glossary and Terms

Tips for finding information on the Internet

There is a lot of information on the internet; some helpful and some misleading or even inaccurate. When searching for information, rely on credible sources. Nationally recognized organizations, such as government website, hospitals and educational institutions, offer credible information. The organizations' website addresses can give you a general idea of who is sponsoring the site.

Addresses that end in **.edu** are sites that are sponsored by educational institutions.

Addresses that end in **.gov** are sites sponsored by a government agency.

Addresses that end in **.org** are sites sponsored by a nonprofit agency.

Addresses that end in **.com** are sites sponsored by a commercial company.

Listed are a few websites to get you started on your search for information. In addition, we've provided you with some basic tips for finding reliable information on the internet.

Websites listed here are for your convenience and do not constitute endorsement by City of Hope.

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR CANCER INFORMATION

American Cancer Society

cancer.org
(800) ACS-2345 (227-2345)

Be the Match

Bethematch.org

BMT InfoNet

bmtinfonet.org
(888) 597-7674

Cancer Legal Resource Center

Barbara.schwerin@lls.edu
(213) 736-1455
(866) 843-2572

Cancer Support Community

Cancersupportcommunity.org
(888) 793-9355

Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research

cibmtr.org

Fertile Hope

fertilehope.org
(888) 994-4673

Lab Tests Online

labtestsonline.org

Livestrong

livestrong.org
(855) 220-7777

National Bone Marrow Transplant Link

nbmtlink.org
(800) LINK-BMT (546-5268)

National Cancer Institute

cancer.gov
(800) 4-CANCER (422-6237)

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

nccih.nih.gov

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

canceradvocacy.org
(877) NCCS-YES (622-7937)

National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements

ods.od.nih.gov

OncoLink

oncolink.org

Radiology Info for Patients

radiologyinfo.org

The Bone Marrow Foundation and Cancer

bonemarrow.org

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

lls.org
(800) 955-4572

Glossary and Terms

Acute

A sudden onset of symptoms of disease

Afebrile

No fever; having a normal temperature

Albumin

A protein substance found in the blood

Allergy

An inappropriate and sometimes harmful response of the immune system to normally harmless substances

Allogeneic Bone Marrow or Stem Cells

Bone marrow or stem cells obtained from one person to be transplanted into a different person

Alopecia

Loss of hair

Ambulatory

The ability to walk; not confined to bed

Analgesic

A drug used to relieve pain

Anemia

Too few red blood cells in the bloodstream, resulting in insufficient oxygen to tissues and organs

Anorexia

The loss of appetite

Antibiotic

A drug used to fight bacterial infections

Antibody

A protein in the blood that helps defend the body against foreign substances, including bacteria and viruses

Antiemetic

A drug used to control nausea and vomiting

Antifungal

A drug used to fight infections from fungi

Antigen

A foreign substance that can stimulate the body's immune system, resulting in the production of antibodies or other defensive actions by white blood cells

Antihistamine

A drug used to relieve the symptoms of allergies like hives, runny nose and itching

Antineoplastics

Drugs used to treat cancer

Apheresis

The process of drawing blood from the bloodstream, separating its various components, saving one component, usually stem cells or platelets and returning the remainder to the body

Ascites

An excessive accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal (abdominal) cavity

Aspiration

The removal of fluids from the body by suction

Autologous Bone Marrow or Stem Cells

Bone marrow or stem cells donated by you for your own use in a transplant

Axilla

The armpit

Bacteria

Living organisms that can be seen only under a microscope and can cause infection

Benign

A growth or tumor that is not malignant or cancerous

Bilateral

Two sides of the body

Biopsy

The removal of tissue for examination under a microscope, commonly required to enable the doctor to make a diagnosis

Blasts

Immature white blood cells

Blood Cells

Cells that make up the blood, including red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets

Blood Count

A lab test to determine the number of cells in blood

Blood Transfusion

Blood administered through a vein to replace blood cells in the blood stream when there is a deficiency of a particular component (e.g., platelets, red blood cells)

Blood Typing and Cross-Match

Lab tests done before transfusion to match the patient's blood with a donor's

Bone Marrow

A spongy substance which fills the hollow spaces in bones. This is where hematopoietic stem cells are found and blood cells are produced.

Bone Marrow Aspiration

A procedure in which a needle is inserted into a bone to take out a sample of bone marrow to be studied

Bone Marrow Harvest

The collection or "harvesting" of hematopoietic stem cells from bone marrow

Bronchoscopy

A procedure used to diagnose pulmonary conditions where the throat and bronchi are directly inspected through a flexible lighted tube

Catheter

A small, flexible plastic tube inserted into a portion of the body to administer and remove fluid

Chemotherapy

A drug or combination of drugs designed to kill cancerous cells

Colony Stimulating Factors

Proteins that stimulate the development of certain types of blood cells in the bone marrow

Comfort and Pain Management Therapies

Medications or other measures used to control pain, relieve pain or increase comfort. These may include the use of music, heat, ice, humor or massage.

Computerized Tomography (CT or CAT scan)

A type of X-ray study that uses computers to obtain a clear picture of the body. Sometimes a dye is used to obtain better pictures.

Conditioning Regimen

The combination of chemotherapy drugs and/or radiation used to prepare your body for a blood or marrow transplant.

Culture

A test in which samples of body fluids such as blood, sputum or urine are examined to look for the cause of an infection

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

A virus within the herpes family of viruses. CMV can occasionally cause pneumonia.

Day Zero

Day zero is the day a patient's stem cells will be reinfused into his or her body

Differential (Diff)

Percent of different types of white blood cells in the blood

Diuretic

A drug which increases the elimination of water and salts (urine) from the body

Donor

The person whose bone marrow or stem cells are harvested for transplant into a patient

Edema

The abnormal accumulation of fluid causing swelling

Electrocardiogram (EKG)

A test used to measure the heart's electrical impulses to evaluate its rhythm and function

Eligibility Criteria

Guidelines established for a research protocol or study that state whether or not a patient will be able to participate safely in that study. These guidelines may take into account type of disease, prior treatments, age and other illnesses.

Engraftment

When the transplanted marrow or stem cells begins to work to manufacture new cells in the patient's bone marrow (white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets)

Febrile

To have a fever

Graft-versus-Host Disease (GVHD)

A common complication of blood and marrow transplantation between allogeneic stem cell transplant recipients and their donors. It occurs when the new marrow (the graft) recognizes the recipient (the host) as foreign and sends out lymphocytes to attack it. It can involve the skin, liver, gastrointestinal tract and other organs.

Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (GCSF)

A medication that makes the bone marrow produce more stem cells. Note: This medication is also known as Neupogen.

Granulocytes

A category of white blood cells that contain granules within their cell body

Growth Factor

An agent that stimulates growth of cells

Hematuria

Blood in the urine

Hemoglobin

That part of the red blood cell that carries oxygen to the tissues

Hemorrhagic Cystitis

A condition in which there is bleeding and occasional ulcerations in the bladder

Herpes Simplex

A common virus that can cause sores on the lips or in the mouth and in the genital area

Herpes Zoster

A viral infection characterized by the development of painful skin eruptions that follow the route of underlying nerves (e.g., shingles, chicken pox)

High-Dose Chemotherapy

The treatment of disease through very high doses of anticancer drugs

Histocompatibility

Blood tests used to determine the similarity between donors and recipients

Hope and Parsons Village

Temporary patient housing on the City of Hope campus. Some patients may use Hope and Parsons Village when hospitalization is not necessary but must remain in close proximity to the hospital.

Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA)

Structures that appear on white blood cells, as well as cells of almost all other tissues. HLA antigens are tested in both the donor and the recipient to ensure that they match, which will increase the chance of survival of the transfused or transplanted cells. HLA typing and matching can be done for platelet transfusions and blood and marrow transplantation.

Hydration Therapy

Intravenous fluids given to ensure the kidneys are functioning properly or to replace fluid lost as a result of vomiting or diarrhea

Hyperalimentation

Intravenous administration of nutrients. It is also called total parenteral nutrition, or TPN.

Hyperglycemia

High levels of sugar in the blood

Hypertension

High blood pressure

Hypotension

Low blood pressure

Immune

A state of adequate protection against certain infections or foreign substances

Immune System

A group of organs, cells and other substances in the body that fights disease

Immunosuppressed

When the body's immune system is weakened and less able to fight infection and disease. Immunosuppression can result from chemotherapy, radiation or be a result of the disease process.

Infection

The invasion and multiplication of disease-producing organisms within the body

Inflammation

The body's reaction against injury or infection. Signs and symptoms may include pain, swelling, heat and tenderness at the site.

Intake and Output (I and O)

A measure of the amount of fluids taken in by your body (e.g., by drinking, IV, etc.) and the amount of all body fluids being put out (e.g., urine, stool, emesis, etc.)

Intralipid

A fat solution often given along with TPN (total parenteral nutrition) to provide the body with nutrients

Intrathecal

Within the spinal column. Occasionally medicine/chemotherapy is given directly into the intrathecal space (spinal column).

Intravenous (IV) Infusion

The delivery of fluids or medicine directly into the bloodstream through a vein

Isolation

Keeping a person separated from others to prevent the spread of infection or to protect them from outside sources of infection.

Jaundice

A yellowing of the skin, the whites of the eyes and the mucosa due to an increase in bilirubin.

Low Bacteria Diet

This diet includes healthy foods that are low in bacteria. All foods in a low bacteria diet must be prepared and cooked in such a way to minimize bacteria.

Lumbar Puncture

Insertion of a needle into the intrathecal space in order to remove cerebrospinal fluid for testing, or to administer medication into the intrathecal space, or both. This fluid is tested for the possible presence of cancer cells, bacteria and other substances.

Lymphocytes

The white blood cells which form antibodies necessary for immunity to specific diseases

Matched Unrelated Donor

A type of allogeneic transplant using a donor from the general population who is not related to the patient but who is a very close HLA match

Mixed Lymphocyte Culture

Lymphocytes from the donor and recipient are mixed together and tested for their compatibility

Neupogen (see GCSF)

Trademark name of GCSF.

Occupational Therapy

Provides services to people whose ability to function in daily life has been disrupted by physical illness, injury, mental illness, developmental delay or the aging process. Each individual is assisted in achieving an independent, productive and satisfying lifestyle via goal-directed, purposeful activity.

Oral

In the mouth

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection

The collection of hematopoietic stem cells from the patient's peripheral blood using a technique called apheresis

Petechiae

Tiny pinpoint red spots on the skin or in the mouth, which usually indicate a low level of platelets

Physical Therapy or PT

Provides intervention to restore or maximize the physical abilities of patients of all ages. The focus is to provide patients with the means to maximize functional independence.

Platelet

One of the main components of blood that helps to produce clots to stop bleeding. Also called thrombocytes.

Pneumonia

Infection of the lung

PRBC

Packed red blood cells — Red blood cells that have been separated from a unit of whole blood for transfusion

Protocol

Clinical trial treatment plan

Purging

Removal of cancer cells from the marrow and/or stem cell

Recreation Therapy

Provides assistance to individuals in the restoration, adaptation and adjustment required to achieve optimal health and well-being. The focus is to enable individuals to develop, maintain and express a satisfying leisure lifestyle.

Red Blood Cells

Cells that contain hemoglobin and carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Also called erythrocytes.

Reduced Intensity Transplant

Also called nonmyeloablative transplant or mini-transplant. This is an allogeneic transplant that uses less intensive treatment to prepare for transplant. The preparation regimen does not destroy all of the bone marrow as a standard transplant regimen does. The reduced intensity transplant relies on the donor's cells to fight the cancer.

Refractory

Not responding to treatment

Serum Glutamic-Oxaloacetic Transaminase

A liver enzyme that indicates how the liver is functioning

Side Effects

Reactions to drugs that are usually temporary and reversible. Side effects do not relate to drug effectiveness.

Sinusoidal Obstructive Syndrome

See Venous Occlusive Disease.

Sputum

A mixture of saliva, mucus and cells coughed up from the lungs and throat

Stem Cells

The precursor cells to all cell lines in the body. Hematopoietic stem cells are the precursor cells to the development of the cells of the blood (white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets).

Syngeneic

From an identical twin

T Cells

Small white blood cells processed in the thymus that are important in the body's immune system. Also known as T-lymphocytes.

Total Parenteral Nutrition

Intravenous administration of a high-calorie, high-protein solution (also see hyperalimentation)

Vascular Access Device

A long, narrow tube that is surgically placed into a large vein leading directly to your heart

Veno-Occlusive Disease

Also called SOS (sinusoidal obstructive syndrome), it is a disease of the liver caused by toxic effects of high-dose chemotherapy and/or radiation, characterized by a blockage in the venous outflow of the liver

White Blood Cells

A variety of blood cells that help fight germs, as well as fungal and bacterial agents. Also called leukocytes.

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