

HOW TO JOIN THE NATIONAL REGISTER?

Via the website of the Marrow Donor Program Belgium Registry: www.stemcelldonor.be.

By going to one of our blood drives or to one of our collection sites:

- You will be given a confidential medical interview by one of our examiners;
- You will have the opportunity to ask any questions, complete and sign the «Inscription form for HSC donation»;
- A blood sample will be taken to determine your «HLA typing».

Once your HLA typing has been determined, you will be registered in the Marrow Donor Program Belgium Registry.

INTERESTED?

Talk to the donation teams
or contact us:

 www.blooddonors.be

 0800 92 245

 info@croix-rouge.be

Online pre-registration on the National Registry website: www.stemcelldonor.be



Thank you!

STEM CELL
donation

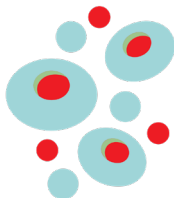
AND IF YOU COULD
SAVE SOMEONE'S
LIFE, SOMEWHERE
IN THE WORLD?



WHAT ARE STEM CELLS?

Stem cells are so-called «mother cells» from which all types of cells develop.

Haematopoietic stem cells (HSC) are mainly found in the bone marrow (but also in the spleen) and produce the cells of the blood lineage: red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.



WHY REGISTER AS A HSC DONOR?



To increase the likelihood of finding a compatible donor for a patient with a blood disorder who does not have a compatible donor in the family / amongst their family members.

HLA is a highly complex hereditary system on the surface of virtually every cell in the human body and is detected particularly reliably on white blood cells. For stem cell donation to be efficient and tolerated, the donor's HLA system must be as close to that of the recipient as possible. It is difficult to find a compatible donor within the family and even more so in the general population.

This is why we need a very large number of people in the Registry in order to increase the chances of compatibility.

The Belgian Registry, called the «Marrow Donor Program Belgium Registry», is shared with other international registries. Together, these registries contain over 40 million potential donors.

HSC can only be donated once for an unrelated patient, and several times within the family.

What does «HLA typing» mean?

HLA typing is a blood test used to determine the antigens carried by white blood cells.

When a patient needs a transplant, their HLA typing is compared with that of all the donors in the Registry to try to find a compatible donor.

WHO NEEDS HSC?

Thousands of people around the world suffering from blood diseases such as leukaemia, cancer or hereditary diseases causing the destruction or dysfunction of bone marrow.

Thanks to the transplantation of the healthy stem cells that you have donated, one of these people could be saved.



Did you know?

Most often, HSCs are collected directly from the blood via a process which directly filters the blood to retain only the HSCs, like for a platelet donation. In rare cases, bone marrow puncture may be used.

WHO CAN DONATE?



Anyone between the ages of 18 and 39 inclusive who meets the eligibility criteria for blood donation, i.e. :

- In good health,
- Weighing at least 50 kg,
- Who does not present any risk of transmitting a blood-borne infectious disease.

When you register, one of our examiners will check that you have no other contraindications to donation.

Joining the National Register is a personal, well-considered decision that implies a commitment to the future.

Did you know?

You can register up to the age of 39. You can then donate your stem cells up to the age of 60. But you can cancel your registration at any time if you wish.