

What Does Bone Marrow Donation Involve?

To become a potential donor, a simple blood test is first required. A small sample of blood is taken from the arm then analyzed by a certified laboratory. This process types your Human Leukocyte Antigen Tissue (HLAT), which equates to your genetic human fingerprint. The HLAT type is then placed on a registry database. The database can then be accessed and searched by transplant center coordinators and registry search coordinating units worldwide on behalf of patients everywhere in need of suitably match marrow donors. Donation involves removing only 2-3 percent of the body's bone marrow from the iliac crest of the hip in the lower back. The procedure involves a needle aspiration, which is performed using an anesthetic. Typically, the donor enters a medical center's outpatient facility in the morning and goes home in the afternoon. The patient or the patient's insurance company pays for the collection procedure. Marrow regenerates within a few weeks, and the donation does not curtail daily activities. You can also donate again in the future, if you wish.

What Is Bone Marrow?

Bone marrow is the tissue found inside bone that produces red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. These essential blood cells fight infection, carry oxygen and help control bleeding. Any disease that attacks the bone marrow can destroy the body's ability to protect itself.

Bone Marrow Donation Program

Each year, several blood-related diseases take the lives of thousands of people. There are some alternative medical procedures which may, or may not, help these patients. But for many, bone marrow transplantation is the only hope for them. More than 60 percent of patients requiring bone marrow transplants do not have a matched family member who can donate the needed marrow. Your post can help change those odds by donating bone marrow through a local collection agency. The odds of finding a matched unrelated donor vary from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 100,000. The need for donors is great. Your post or department can help by joining the National Bone Marrow Donor Program.

How Can I Become a Bone Marrow Donor?

To donate marrow, you must be between the ages of 18 and 60. For information on how to become a donor, there are two national registries that can assist you.

The National Marrow Donor Program
1-800-654-1247
www.marrow.org

The American Bone Marrow Donor Registry
1-800-7-DONATE (1-800-736-6283)

How Can We, As A Post or Department, Get Involved?

Some ideas are:

- ❖ Make a financial contribution to sponsor donor testing.
- ❖ Coordinate a donor drive or fundraising event.



ORGAN or BONE MARROW Donor Program



*“The gift of a stranger
can give life.”*

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Organ Donor Awareness Program

Advances in medical technology have made it possible to replace a variety of malfunctioning human organs. Current techniques make it possible for transplants of kidneys and corneas. Progress is also being made in overcoming transplantation problems connected with the liver, heart, pancreas, bones, and other tissues. The greatest hindrance to all transplant programs is the lack of suitable donor organs for those individuals desperately awaiting surgery. Over 83,000 men, women, and children are hoping that an organ donation will be made that will give them a second chance at a new life. About 85% of people in the United States believe in organ donation, but only 35% donate. This is where AMVETS can contribute by either becoming donors or simply helping to inform the public of the critical need for organ donation. You can also provide information or support legislation at all levels of government to have donor provisions on drivers' licenses.

Facts about Organ Donation

- ❖ Signing a donor card indicates your wish to be a donor. However, at time of death the person's next-of-kin will be asked to sign a consent form for donation.
- ❖ More than 83,000 patients are waiting for an organ transplant nationwide. Less than half will get transplants, and about 2,000 new patients are added each month.
- ❖ Due to lack of available organs, about one-third of the patients who are waiting for heart, liver or lung transplants will die.
- ❖ About 57 people receive an organ transplant each day, but another 13 on the waiting list die because there are not enough organs available.

What does organ donation involve?

Any individual can be an organ donor. Medical suitability is determined upon death. There are no age limitations on who can donate, but any persons under 18 years of age must have a parent's or guardians consent. **Most importantly discuss your decision with family members and loved ones.** You can indicate your decision to be an organ donor on your driver's license, or you carry an organ donor card. **Signing a donor card does not affect the quality of care you receive, to save your life, before donation is considered.** You can donate any organs from heart, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, liver and intestines. Donation does not disfigure the body in the event that a funeral is planned, including open casket services.

Still Unsure?

You could help 50 people if you decide to donate your organs.



- ❖ Your heart can beat for someone else.



- ❖ Your lungs could breath for someone else.



- ❖ Your bones could help repair other people's damaged joints.



- ❖ Your liver could save the life of a patient-awaiting transplant.
- ❖ Your kidneys could free two people from dialysis.



- ❖ Your corneas could give sight to two people.

Where you can find information on Organ Donation.


To get your organ donor card and a free brochure on organ donation and how to talk to your family about your decision call:

1-800-355-SHARE

Or Write:

*Coalition on Donation
700 North 4th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Phone: 804-782-4920
Fax: 804-782-4643
Excellent Website:
(www.donatelife.net)*

You may download this card from the website or simply cut this card from the brochure.



MY COMMITMENT TO DONATE LIFE UNIFORM DONOR CARD

I _____, have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. The following people have witnessed my commitment to be a donor. I wish to donate the following:


any needed organs and tissue

only the following organs and tissue: _____

Donor Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____

Witness _____



Your Gift Statement may be subject to applicable State and/or Federal laws.

