



HELP SAVE A LIFE

It could be weeks, months, or even years before you are contacted to donate. Some people may never get the call. But if you do, you may have a few questions about the process, like:

How does marrow donation help someone with blood cancer?

A marrow transplant is like a “system reboot” for a patient’s immune system. It’s often their only chance at survival.

Cancers like leukemia cause the body to produce diseased blood cells. A marrow transplant takes about 5% of a donor’s healthy stem cells and puts them into a patient’s bloodstream. The donated cells settle in the bones, where they begin to produce new, healthy blood cells. Meanwhile, the donor’s body replaces the cells within two weeks. Read about [how marrow donation works](#).



How long does donating take?

First, it’s important to know that response time is crucial if you’re asked to donate. You’re a patient’s best genetic match out of millions of people, and we need to know if they can count on you for a cure.

The typical time commitment for the donation process is 20-30 hours over 4 to 6 weeks

to go to appointments and donate. The actual donation time depends on how you donate. Learn more about [the donation process](#).



Is it painful?

Probably less than you think. TV shows and movies have wildly exaggerated marrow donation as something scary. The reality is far less dramatic. Most people give through a Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) donation, which is similar to donating platelets. Side effects like headaches or body aches disappear shortly after donation.

Donors who give through marrow extraction are given anesthesia so they feel no pain during collection. Discomfort varies from person to person. Side effects may include back pain, fatigue, headache or bruising for a few days or weeks.

A small price to pay for the chance to save a life. [Hear from a real-life donor](#) on what it was like to donate.



Does it cost anything?

It's free to save a life.

The donation process is absolutely free for the donor. Be The Match reimburses travel costs and all medical costs for the procedure are covered by Be The Match or the recipient's medical insurance. [Find more donation FAQs here](#).

Who will you save?

Join Now >

BE  THE MATCH®



[Join Now](#) | [Give](#) | [State Fundraising Notices](#)
[Privacy Statement](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [View Online](#)

If you unsubscribe, your email will be removed from receiving all Be The Match Registry email communications. Be The Match Registry® is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program®

500 N. 5th St., Minneapolis, MN 55401-1206
1 (800) MARROW-2

Copyright © 1996-2018 National Marrow Donor Program. All Rights Reserved.