

Improving unrelated donor equity: Assessing mismatched donor opportunities with real-world data in a racially and ethnically diverse population

A study from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine using the NMDP RegistrySM search data to validate CIBMTR[®] (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research[®]) modeling

CIBMTR is a research collaboration between the Medical College of Wisconsin[®] and NMDPSM.

Study details:

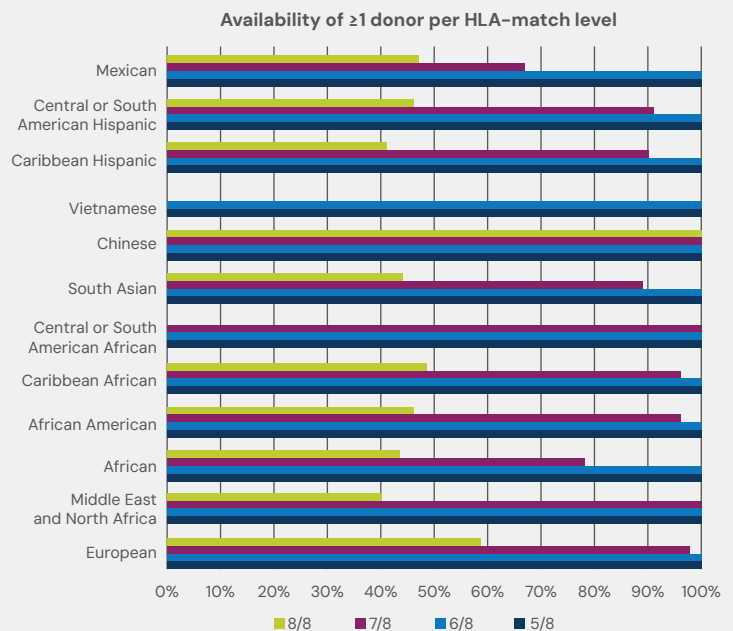
A study of real-world data focused on the availability of 5/8 to 7/8 HLA mismatched unrelated donors (MMUDs) on the NMDP Registry for a diverse cohort in the Bronx, New York. The purpose was to examine MMUD options for a predominantly ethnically diverse cohort.

The study involved a retrospective review of electronic medical records of 241 adult patients who underwent high-resolution HLA typing at Montefiore Medical Center between January 2019 and December 2022. The cohort was diverse, with patients originating from 37 countries and an ethnic/racial distribution of 38.5% Hispanic, 30.8% non-Hispanic White, 26.1% Black and 4.7% Asian.

Results at a glance:

- All patients had at least 1 donor at the 5/8 and 6/8 HLA match levels.
- 91% of patients had a 7/8 match, and 52% had an 8/8 match.
- Over 80% of patients had more than 100 potential 5/8 and 6/8 HLA-matched donors.
- Non-Hispanic White patients were more likely to have an available 7/8 or 8/8 match compared to other racial/ethnic groups ($p=0.002$).
- Among the 71 patients who proceeded to alloHCT, 35.2% had a matched unrelated donor, 28.2% had a matched related donor, and 36.6% had a haploidentical related donor.

Figure: Percentage of patients with ≥ 1 donor at each HLA-match level by race/ethnicity.



Clinical impact:

This study confirms the potential to reduce donor availability barriers to alloHCT using MMUDs. The findings demonstrate that patients from all racial/ethnic backgrounds have a suitable donor at the 5/8 and 6/8 match levels. Continued research and initiatives like [NMDP's Donor for All](#) are essential to further expand access and accelerate progress towards potential cures for all patients, ensuring equitable treatment opportunities across diverse populations.

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Read the publication in Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (DOI: [10.1016/j.jtct.2024.02.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtct.2024.02.020)).