

# Bone Marrow Transplant in MDS

Omer Jamy, MD

**Assistant Professor** 

Division of Hematology/Oncology & BMT&CT, Department of Medicine University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

No conflict of interest to disclose

#### **Bone Marrow**

- Soft part of bone that acts a factory
  - Red cells
  - White cells
  - Platelets

### **Bone Marrow Transplant**

- Blood cancers (AML, MDS, etc) do not allow the factory to function properly
- A BMT replaces unhealthy cells with healthy cells
- Two types: Autologous and Allogeneic
- Auto: Own cells
- Allo: Donor cells

- Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (Allo-hsct) is the only curative approach for MDS patients
- Cure is not guaranteed though
- It is associated with high risk of severe and life threatening complications

- Disease
- Patient
- Donor
- Initial transplant period
- Late transplant period

### Disease

R-IPSS Category	Median Survival (years)	25% AML progression (years)	Transplant
Very Low	8.8	Not reached	
Low	5.3	10.8	No Allo HSCT
Intermediate	3.0	3.2	Allo HSCT if acceptable risk
High	1.6	1.4	
Very High	0.8	0.7	Allo HSCT

### **Patient**

- Age
- Performance status
- Reliable and dedicated caregiver
- Other medical conditions
  - Heart
  - Lung
  - Kidney
  - Liver
  - Infection
  - Stroke

#### Donor

- Best match donor
  - Prevent rejection
  - Keep MDS under control
  - Minimize GVHD

#### Donor

- 1. Matched sibling donor (30%)
- 2. Matched unrelated donor (50-60%)

- 3. Haplo-identical donor
- 3. Cord Blood

# Initial Transplant Period

- Admission
- High dose of chemotherapy
- Stem cell infusion (Day 0)
- Neutropenic period
- Engraftment
- Discharge
- Hospital stay of 3-4 weeks (if all goes well)

# **Initial Complications**

- Complications of chemotherapy
  - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mucositis, fatigue, hair loss, etc
- Complications of low counts
  - Infections, fatigue, bleeding, bruising

We anticipate this and support you through this

### Late Transplant Period

- Stay close by for at least 100 days
  - Monitor for late infections
  - Monitor for GVHD

# Graft vs. Host Disease (GVHD)

- Donor cells = Graft
- Patient = Host
- MDS = Leukemia/tumor

- We want Graft vs. Leukemia effect
- We do not want Graft vs. Host disease

- Donor cells misbehave
- Identify the host as foreign
- Attack the host

- Skin
- Liver
- GI
- Lungs
- Eyes
- Mouth

- Early = acute GVHD
- Late = chronic GVHD

Chances of happening: 30-50%

 Spectrum: Mild (rash)----- Life threatening (liver failure, end stage lung disease, etc)

- Medicines to prevent GVHD
- GVHD still occurs
- These medicines need strict monitoring after discharge
- Taper by day 100 if no GVHD
- Treatment is mainly steroids

### **Outcomes**

 Best outcome: Disease controlled and some GVHD

### **Outcomes**

Disease relapse

#### **Outcomes**

- Non-relapse mortality
- Transplant-related mortality

• Risk vs. benefit