

Acute Graft Versus Host Disease

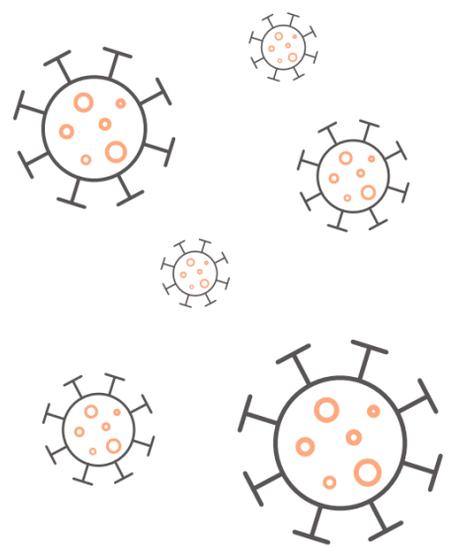
What is GvHD?

Graft versus host disease (GvHD) is a serious complication that may happen after a hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). GvHD occurs when the donor t-cells ("the graft") recognize the healthy cells of the patient ("the host") as foreign and start attacking healthy tissues and organs.^{1,2}

GvHD can be separated into two main types:

- **Acute** GvHD
- **Chronic** GvHD

Each type affects different organs and tissues and has distinct signs and symptoms.¹



Acute GvHD Symptoms



Skin Rash¹



Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or abdominal cramping (due to acute GvHD in the gastrointestinal tract)¹



Jaundice (due to acute GvHD of the liver)¹

Prevalence & Risk Factors

Acute GvHD impacts between 30% and 70% of transplant recipients, depending on donor type, transplant technique, and other features.¹ Based on the number of transplants performed, about **5,500 patients** will develop acute GvHD each year.⁴

Racial and ethnic minority patient populations are more likely to experience challenges following a HSCT. This may be due to several factors that impact overall outcome, including a lack of ideal donor availability and related care.³

Prevention

GvHD is difficult to treat once it occurs. Healthcare providers may try to prevent GvHD by treating patients with immunosuppressive medications before and after transplantation to suppress donor T-cell function, though there is no standard regimen or approved therapies for the prevention of GvHD.



New medications to specifically prevent acute GvHD are currently being studied in clinical trials.

Bristol Myers Squibb remains committed to employing pathbreaking science to improve care and expand treatment options for underserved patients.

1. Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Graft-versus host disease. Updated 12/06/2017. https://www.lls.org/sites/default/files/National/USA/Pdf/Publications/FS32_GVHD_6.19_Update.pdf. Accessed June 22, 2021.
2. Cleveland Clinic. Graft vs host Disease: an overview in bone marrow transplant. Updated 06/22/2020. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/10255-graft-vs-host-disease-an-overview-in-bone-marrow-transplant>. Accessed July 29, 2021.
3. Majhail, NS et al. Racial disparities in hematopoietic cell transplantation in the United States. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2012;47(11): 10.1038/bmt.2011.214.
4. Jacobsen DA, Vogelsang GB. Acute graft versus host disease. Orphanet J. Rare Dis. 2007;2:35.