

Stem Cell Sources for Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation

Essay

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Hematology*

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ABSTRACT

HLA-matched related allogeneic stem cell transplantation (SCT) has been successfully used as the treatment of choice in selected high-risk or recurrent hematologic malignancies, marrow failure syndromes, severe congenital immunodeficiency states, and selected metabolic disorders. (28)

In the early 1990s, it was found that granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF)-mobilized peripheral blood stem cells (PBSCs) led to speedier granulocyte and platelet recovery after autologous transplantation than seen with marrow. The use of PBSCs quickly became the community norm, despite the lack of randomized trials measuring the impact of PBSC use on survival in specific disease states. There was hesitation in applying this technology to the allogeneic setting, because unmodified growth factor-mobilized PBSC collections contain, on average, 1 log more T cells than a standard marrow collection and murine studies have demonstrated a close relationship between the number of T cells in a graft and the development of acute graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). (26,55,56,57)

Key words:

- Stem cell transplantation
- Haplo-identical transplantation
- Cord blood transplantation
- Matched unrelated donor

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| List of tables | i |
| List of figures | i |
| List of Abbreviation | ii |
| <i>I) Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Spotlights</i> | <i>1</i> |
| • Historical Perspective | 2 |
| • Indications of HSCT | 7 |
| <i>II) Hematopoietic Stem Cells</i> | <i>8</i> |
| • Identification of HSCs Enriched Populations | 10 |
| • Stem Cell Niches | 10 |
| <i>III) Hematopoietic Stem Cell Sources</i> | <i>12</i> |
| • Bone Marrow Stem cells | 13 |
| • Peripheral Blood Stem Cells | 15 |
| • Cord Blood Stem Cells | 19 |
| • CD34+ Dose | 24 |
| <i>IV) Peripheral Blood versus Bone Marrow HSCT</i> | <i>26</i> |
| • The cell composition | 27 |
| • The replication potential of stem cells | 27 |
| • Post-transplantation characteristics | 28 |
| • Manipulation of allogeneic grafts | 35 |
| • Conclusions | 39 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| V) Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donor Selection | 41 |
| • HLA Typing | 42 |
| - HLA Antigens | 42 |
| - HLA Genomic Organization | 44 |
| - HLA typing: Methods and resolution levels | 48 |
| - Choice of donor based on HLA typing | 52 |
| • Related Donor Transplantation | 55 |
| • Syngeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation | 56 |
| • HLA-Haploidentical Donor | 59 |
| - Haploidentical Donor Matching | 60 |
| - Considerations and Implications for Donor Selection | 61 |
| - Newer Approaches to Haploidentical SCT | 63 |
| - Non-myeloablative Haploidentical SCT | 66 |
| - PB vs BM: Engraftment across HLA barriers | 69 |
| - Specific Transplantation Tolerance Induction | 70 |
| - Conclusions and future direction | 71 |
| • Unrelated Donor Transplantation | 72 |
| - Matching criteria for unrelated donors | 72 |
| - Probability of finding a matched unrelated donor | 74 |
| - Outcomes of Matched Unrelated Transplantation | 75 |
| - Allele matching: Relative importance of individual loci | 77 |
| - HLA A & B incompatibility influence on outcome | 78 |
| - HLA II disparity influence on UD transplantation | 79 |
| - Clinical experience outcome | 80 |
| - Unrelated Donor versus Sibling Donor Transplant | 83 |
| VI) Umbilical Cord Blood Transplantation | 89 |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| • Impact of Cell Dose on Outcome | 91 |
| • Impact of HLA Match on Outcome | 92 |
| • Advantages of cord blood banking | 93 |
| • Disadvantages of cord blood transplants | 94 |
| • The long-term survival among recipients of BMT versus CBT | 96 |
| • MUD vs UCBT in adult and pediatric patients | 97 |
| • Arguments in favor of private banking | 98 |
| • Limitations to banked cord blood as lifelong medical insurance | 99 |
| • Comparison of UD CBT and UD BMT | 100 |
| - Children with acute leukaemia | 100 |
| - Adults with acute leukaemia | 102 |
| • Strategies to Improve UCBT in Adults | 103 |
| - Double-unit grafts to augment cell dose | 103 |
| - Reduced-intensity or nonmyeloablative UCBT | 104 |
| • UCBT for Non-malignant Diseases | 105 |
| • Current Areas of Research and Development | 106 |
| - UCB banking | 106 |
| - Cell dose vs HLA match in unit selection and strategies | 107 |
| - UCBT outcome in specific malignancies | 109 |
| - GVHD, infection and relapse | 109 |
| • Conclusions | 111 |
| <i>Summary</i> | <i>112</i> |
| <i>References</i> | <i>114</i> |
| <i>ملخص الرسالة</i> | <i>142</i> |

List of Tables

| <i>Table</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Table 1 | Definitions of stem cell types | 9 |
| Table 2 | Neutrophil and Platelet recovery and incidence of aGVHD and cGVHD after PBSCT compared to BMT in different randomised trials | 30 |
| Table 3 | Incidence of GVHD after allogeneic PBSC or BM Transplantation | 31 |
| Table 4 | Relapse incidence (RI) and survival after allo-PBSCT compared to allo-BMT in randomized trails | 32 |
| Table 5 | HLA nomenclature and levels of resolution | 49 |
| Table 6 | List of HLA-A, -B, Cw, -DR and -DQ serotypes with the corresponding groups of alleles | 50 |
| Table 7 | Sources of Hematopoietic Stem Cells | 54 |
| Table 8 | Haploidentical SCT potential applications | 59 |
| Table 9 | Advantages and disadvantages in the search and identification process of BM and CB unrelated donor | 95 |

List of Figures

| <i>Figure</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Figure 1 | The mechanisms regulating the HSC Niche | 11 |
| Figure 2 | Schematic representation of HLA class I and II molecules | 42 |
| Figure 3 | Schematic representation of the 12 HLA class I and II loci in the MHC | 45 |
| Figure 4 | Schematic representation of HLA-A2 alleles showing common residues on the a1/a2-domains that are recognized by alloantisera | 47 |
| Figure 5 | Algorithm for donor search | 54 |
| Figure 6 | Nonmyeloablative ex vivo T-cell depleted PBSCT and DLI for hematologic malignancy | 68 |
| Figure 7 | Matching criteria in related and unrelated HSCT | 73 |

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|---|
| 6-MP | 6-Mercaptopurine |
| AA | Aplastic Anaemia |
| aGVHD | Acute Graft versus Host disease |
| ALL | Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia |
| APC | Antigen presenting cells |
| ATG | Anti-thymocyte globulin |
| BM | Bone marrow |
| BMDW | Bone Marrow Donor Worldwide |
| BMT | Bone marrow transplantation |
| CB | Cord blood |
| CBT | Cord blood transplantation |
| CFU | Colony-forming units |
| cGVHD | Chronic Graft versus Host disease |
| CIBMTR | Center for international blood and marrow transplant research |
| CML | Chronic myeloid leukemia |
| CMV | Cytomegalovirus |
| CLL | Chronic lymphocytic leukemia |
| CSP | Cyclosporine |
| CTL | Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte |
| CY | Cyclophosphamide |
| DFS | Disease-free survival |
| DLI | Donor lymphocyte infusion |
| EBV | Epstein-Barr virus |
| FLU | Fludarabine |
| G-CSF | Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor |
| G-PBMCs | G-CSF–mobilized Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells |
| GM-CSF | Granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor |
| GVH | Graft versus Host |
| GVHD | Graft versus Host disease |
| GVL | Graft-versus-Leukemia |
| HCL | Hairy cell leukemia |

| | |
|---------|--|
| HD | Hodgkin disease |
| HLA | Human leukocyte antigens |
| HSC | Haemopoietic Stem Cell |
| HSCT | Haemopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation |
| IBMTR | International Bone Marrow Transplantation Registry |
| IL | Interleukin |
| KIR | Killer Immunoglobulin-like Receptor |
| MDS | Myelodysplasia |
| MF | Myelofibrosis |
| MGH | Massachusetts General Hospital |
| MHC | Major histocompatibility complex |
| mHC | Minor histocompatibility complex |
| MM | Multiple myeloma |
| MMF | mycophenolate mofetil |
| MNC | MonoNuclear Cells |
| MTX | Methotrexate |
| MUD | Matched unrelated donor |
| NHL | Non-Hodgkin lymphoma |
| NK | Natural Killer |
| NMDP | National Marrow Donor Program |
| NYBC | New York Blood Center |
| OS | Overall survival |
| PB | Peripheral blood |
| PBSC | Peripheral blood stem cells |
| PBSCT | Peripheral blood stem cell transplantation |
| PCR | Polymerase Chain Reaction |
| PNH | Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria |
| pre-DC1 | Th1-inducing myeloid dendritic cell precursors |
| pre-DC2 | Th2-inducing lymphoid dendritic cells |
| RD | Related donor |
| RR | Relapse rate |
| SCC | Sickle cell disease |
| SCID | Severe combined immune deficiency |

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| SCT | Stem cell transplantation |
| TBI | Total body irradiation |
| TCD | T-cell depletion |
| TCR | T-cell receptors |
| Th | T-helper |
| UCB | Umbilical cord blood |
| UCBT | Umbilical cord blood Transplantation |
| URD | Unrelated donor |
| VLA | Very late antigen |
| VCAM | Vascular cell adhesion molecule |
| WAS | Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome |
| WBCs | White blood cells |

CHAPTER I

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

Spotlights

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Early Preclinical Studies

After the effects of radiation on hematopoiesis became evident during World War II, Jacobson and colleagues reported in 1949 that mice could survive a lethal exposure to total body irradiation (TBI) if the spleen was shielded (1). Shortly after, Lorenz and colleagues reported that radiation protection could also be conferred by infusion of bone marrow (2). In 1956, Ford and associates showed that cytogenetic characteristics of the marrow in such mice were those of the donor and not the recipient (3).

A syndrome developed after recovery of hematopoiesis when the infused marrow was from a donor of a different strain (4). This syndrome was due to Graft versus Host (GVH) disease (GVHD), a complication that was soon recognized to limit the use of allogeneic marrow transplantation in humans. In further studies in mice, methotrexate (MTX) and 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) were found to be effective in inducing immune tolerance or ameliorating GVH reaction (5,6,7).

The dog served as a random-bred model for studies of principles and techniques of bone marrow (BM) transplantation (BMT) applicable to humans. It was demonstrated that the results of in vitro histocompatibility typing could predict the outcome of BMT (8,9). Littermates genotypically identical to their donors for the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) survived longer after marrow transplantation than did those transplanted with marrow from MHC-non-identical siblings. Despite the MHC genotypic

identity, GVHD was still potentially severe in many but not all dogs. This indicated that minor histocompatibility complex (mHC) antigens were involved in the development of GVHD. Immunosuppression with cyclosporine (CSP) or MTX, given for prevention of GVHD, improved survival after allogeneic marrow grafting (10,11). It was then established that these two drugs are more effective when used in combination (12).

Early Clinical Studies

Following the demonstration in mice that marrow grafting could be accomplished after lethal irradiation, it seemed logical to apply this technique to the treatment of human hematological malignancy using intensive chemotherapy or irradiation followed by marrow aplasia. The first attempts, reported in 1957, were largely unsuccessful; only one transient graft was successful. Nevertheless those studies contributed one important discovery that relatively large amounts of marrow could be infused intravenously into human patients without ill effects provided that the marrow was anti-coagulated and screened to break up particles. (13)

The next important observation was made in 1959. Two patients with advanced acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) were given supralethal TBI and marrow infusion from identical twin. Hematological recovery occurred in two weeks, showing clearly that a compatible marrow graft could protect against lethal marrow aplasia produced by irradiation. In those first two patients, leukemia recurred in few months, indicating that irradiation alone might not be sufficient to eradicate leukemia and that additional chemotherapy might be necessary (14).

Three other critical developments contributed to the success of human marrow transplantation: One was the development of the knowledge and technology needed to provide supportive care to patients without marrow functions. The second critical development was elucidation of the human histocompatibility system. In 1958 Dausset was the first to recognize human leukocyte antigens (HLA) and their importance in histocompatibility. In the 1960s, several brilliant investigators made great progress in the definition and recognition of the antigens controlled by loci of chromosome 6, the complex “super gene” that represents the MHC system in humans (15). The third critical development was demonstrating in an outbred species that matching at MHC would predict successful outcome of marrow graft (9).

Different sources of hematopoietic stem cells have been or are being used for the reconstitution of lympho-hematopoietic function after myeloablative, near-myeloablative, or non-myeloablative treatment. Bone marrow (BM)–derived stem cells, introduced by E. D. Thomas in 1963 are considered the classical stem cell source (16). Fetal liver stem cell transplantation has been performed on a limited number of patients with aplastic anemia or acute leukemia, but only transient engraftment has been demonstrated (17). Peripheral blood (PB) as a stem cell source was introduced in 1981 and umbilical cord blood (UCB) was introduced as a source in 1988 (18,19). The various stem cell sources differ in their reconstitutive and immunogenic characteristics, which are based on the proportion of early pluripotent and self-renewing stem cells to lineage-committed late progenitor cells and on the number and characteristics of accompanying “accessory cells” contained in stem cell allografts (20).

Bone marrow was the first commonly used source of Haemopoietic Stem Cells (HSC) for transplantation. Bone marrow transplantation from HLA-identical donors was first successfully used by two groups in 1968 to treat patients with immunologic deficiencies (21,22). After extensive preclinical studies of GVHD, the first report of a successful BMT for aplastic anemia (AA) from an HLA-identical sibling donor was published in 1972 (23). A report of 100 patients with end-stage leukemia treated with BMT was presented by a Seattle group in 1977 (24).

The effectiveness of peripheral blood (PB) cells to repopulate lethally irradiated animals was originally demonstrated in the dog model. The in vivo observation that cells from peripheral blood could provide long term engraftment after marrow lethal treatment was the strongest evidence that peripheral blood cell infusion as a source of repopulating cells was initially described for patients with aplastic anemia (25).

In the early 1990s, it was found that granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) or granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), mobilized peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) led to speedier granulocyte and platelet recovery after autologous transplantation than seen with marrow; given the practical and economic benefits of more rapid recovery, use of PBSC quickly became the community norm, despite the lack of randomized trials measuring the impact of PBCS use on survival in specific disease states. There was hesitation in applying this technology to allogeneic setting, because unmodified growth factor-mobilized PBCS collections contain, on average, 1 log more T cells than a standard marrow collection and murine studies have demonstrated a close relationship