




























Clinical impact of allogeneic stem cells cryopreservation during COVID-19 pandemic

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Nasofaringeal molecular swab for SARS-Cov2 for donors and recipients during the pandemic waves

practical summary

- Recipients undergo two consecutive (with a 48 hours time interval) swabs for SARS-Cov2 RNA prior to hospital admittance for Tx. The second swab is performed 24 hours prior to admittance in the Tx unit
- Donors undergo the same swab sequence prior hospital admittance (in case of BM donation) or prior mobilization followed by a careful donor's follow up till 28 days post donation for Covid 19 symptoms

Nasofaringeal molecular swab for SARS-Cov2 for donors and recipients during the pandemic waves

- From a practical point of view , these complex sequence of donor/recipient monitoring for the presence of SARS-Cov2, with the proper time interval for laboratory response, translates into the need of BM/PBPC cryopreservation in most cases
- Cryopreservation of PBPC is a procedure with a small processing impact (as for the autologous setting), for BM the generation of a buffy coat is required prior to cryopreservation, with the method used for ABO major mismatched



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Full-length article

Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: a single center reappraisal

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ABSTRACT

Background: The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has deeply modified the complex logistical process underlying allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant practices. **Aim:** In light of these changes, the authors compared data relative to allogeneic transplants carried out from 2018 at their center before (n = 167) and during the pandemic (n = 45). **Methods:** The authors examined patient characteristics, donor and graft types, cell doses and main transplant outcomes. Moreover, the authors evaluated the rise of costs attributable to additional COVID-19-related procedures as well as the risk of adverse events these procedures conveyed to grafts or recipients. **Results:** Overall, the number of transplants did not decrease during the pandemic, whereas patients at high relapse risk were prioritized. Transplants were mainly from matched unrelated donors, with a significant decrease in haploidentical related donors. Moreover, the use of bone marrow as a graft for haploidentical transplant was almost abandoned. Cryopreservation was introduced for all related and unrelated apheresis products, with a median storage time of 20 days. Notably, transplant outcomes (engraftment, acute graft-versus-host disease and non-relapse mortality) with cryopreserved products were comparable to those with fresh products. **Conclusions:** Considering that the emergency situation may persist for months, cryopreserving allogeneic grafts can offer a lifesaving opportunity for patients whose allogeneic transplant cannot be postponed until after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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A B S T R A C T

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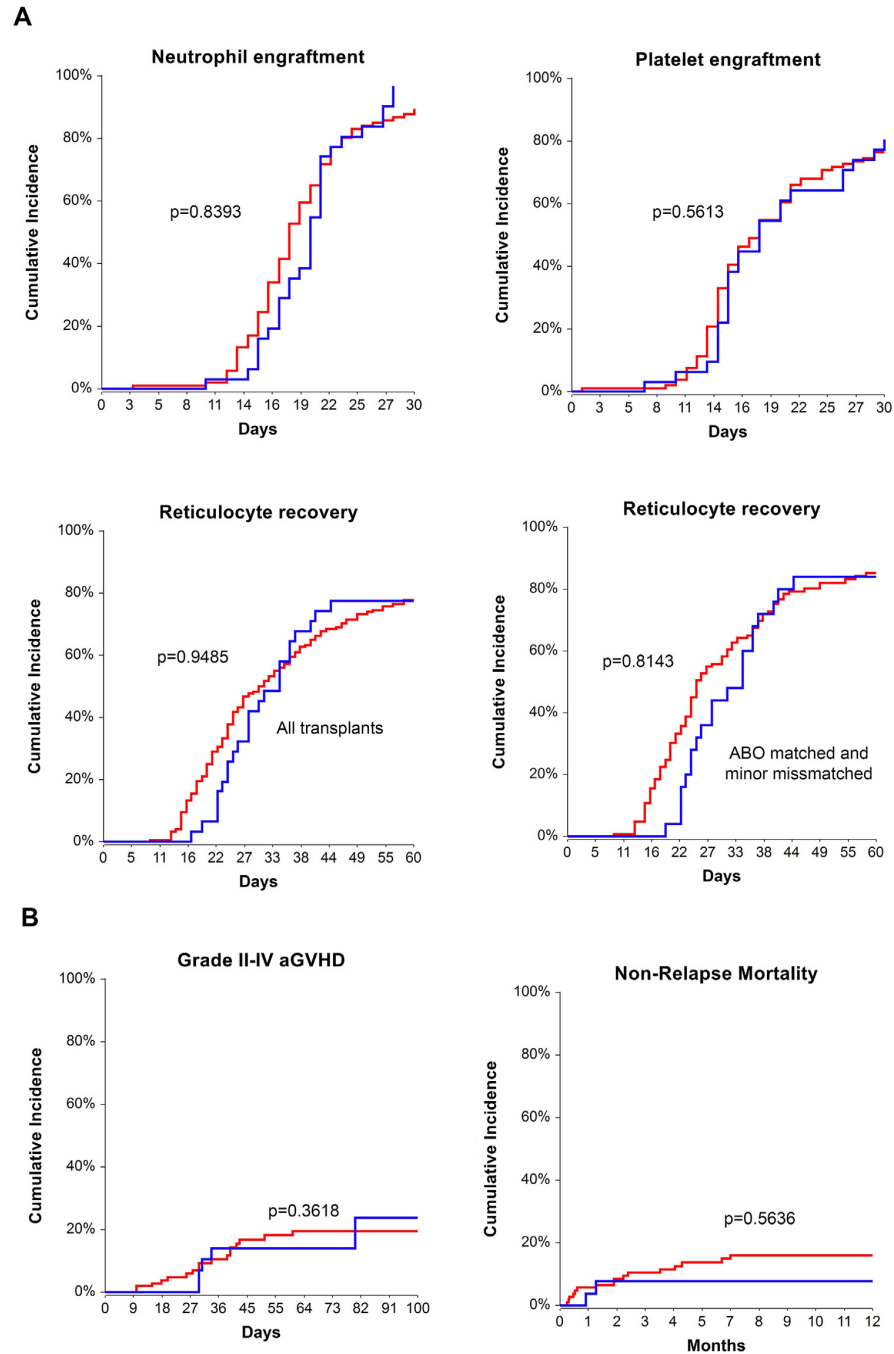
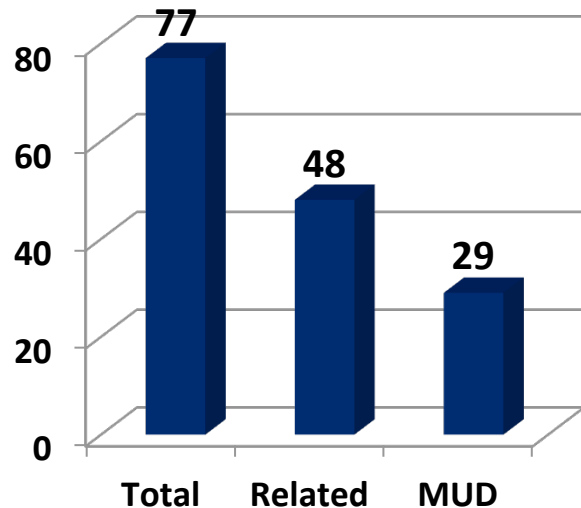


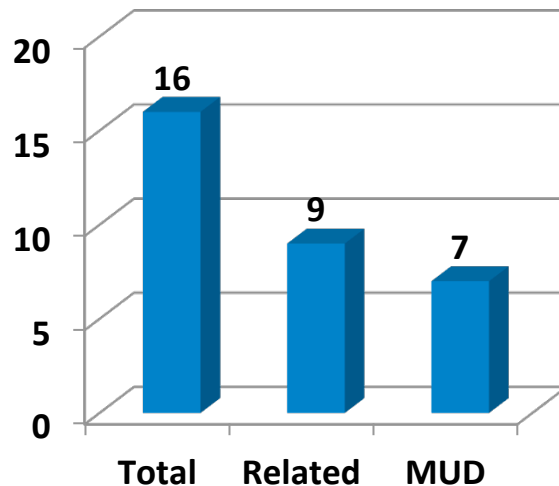
Figure 1. Transplant outcomes in patients receiving fresh (red lines) or cryopreserved (blue lines) products. (A) Cumulative incidence of neutrophil, platelet and reticulocyte engraftment. Reticulocyte engraftment is separately reported in total population and ABO matched/minor mismatched patients. (B) Cumulative incidence of grade II–IV acute GVHD and NRM.

**San Camillo Forlanini experience
serving Tx units which perform
also haplo-alloTx using the
BM G-CSF-primed or the BM source prior
post-Tx CTX**

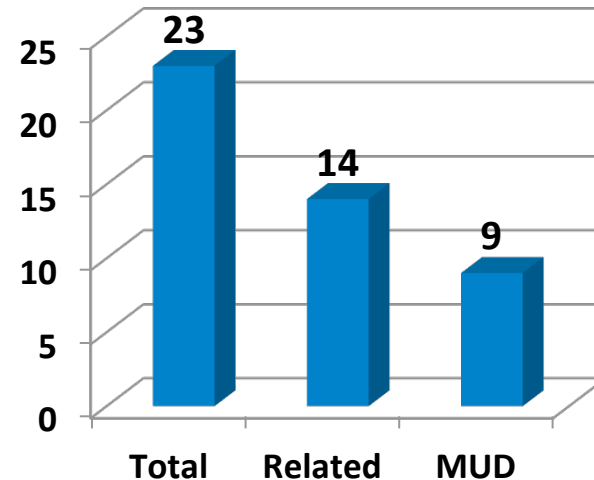
Allogeneic Transplants
01-01-20 → 26-03-21



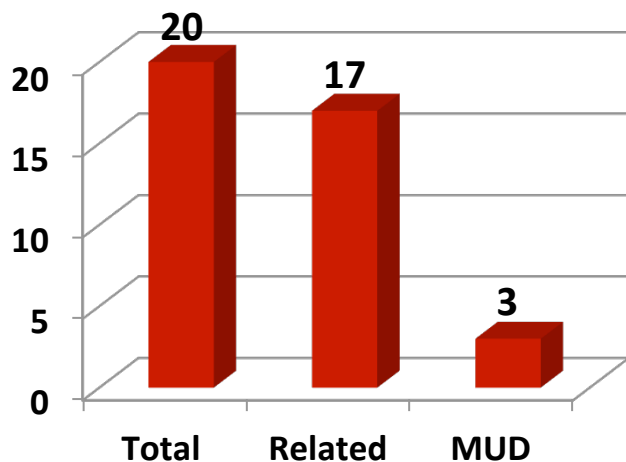
Allogeneic Transplants
(fresh)
01-01-20 → 30-03-20



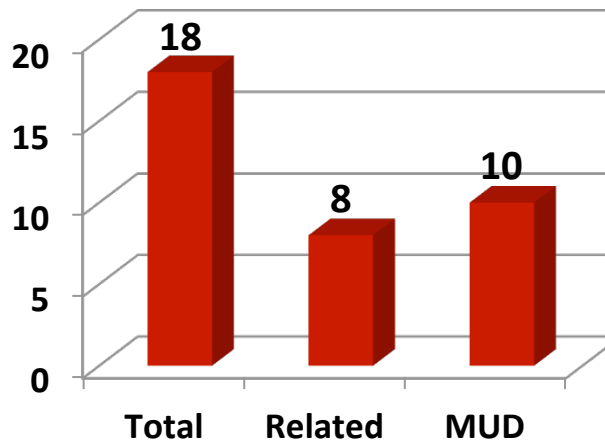
Allogeneic Transplants
(fresh)
01-07-20 → 31-10-20



Allogeneic Transplants
(cryo) 01-04-20 → 30-06-20
1st Covid19 wave



Allogeneic Transplants
(cryo) 01-11-20-23-03-21
2nd Covid Wave

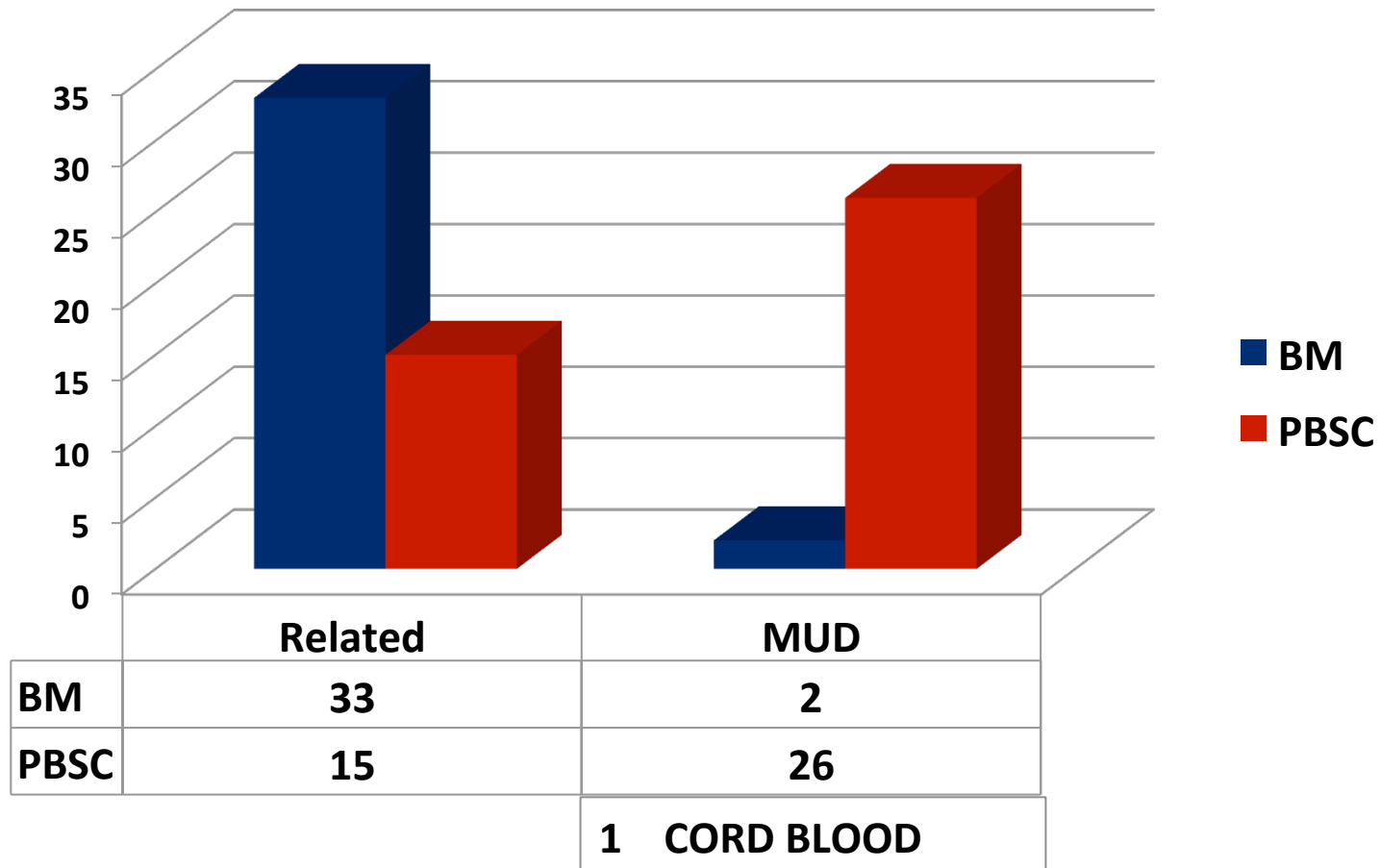


77 Allogeneic Transplants 01-01-20 → 26-03-21	PATIENTS	FRESH	CRYOPRESERVED
		n 35	n 42
	Male	21	24
	Female	14	18

Diagnosis	Fresh		Cryopreserved		
	BM	PBSC	BM	PBSC	Cord Blood
Acute Myeloid Leukemia	13	6	4	17	1
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	6	3	4	2	-
Hodgkin/ non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	-	1	6	2	-
Multiple Myeloma	1	-	-	1	-
Myelodisplastic Syndrome	1	-	-	2	-
Myelofibrosys	1	1	-	3	
Severe Acute Anemia	1	1	-	-	-

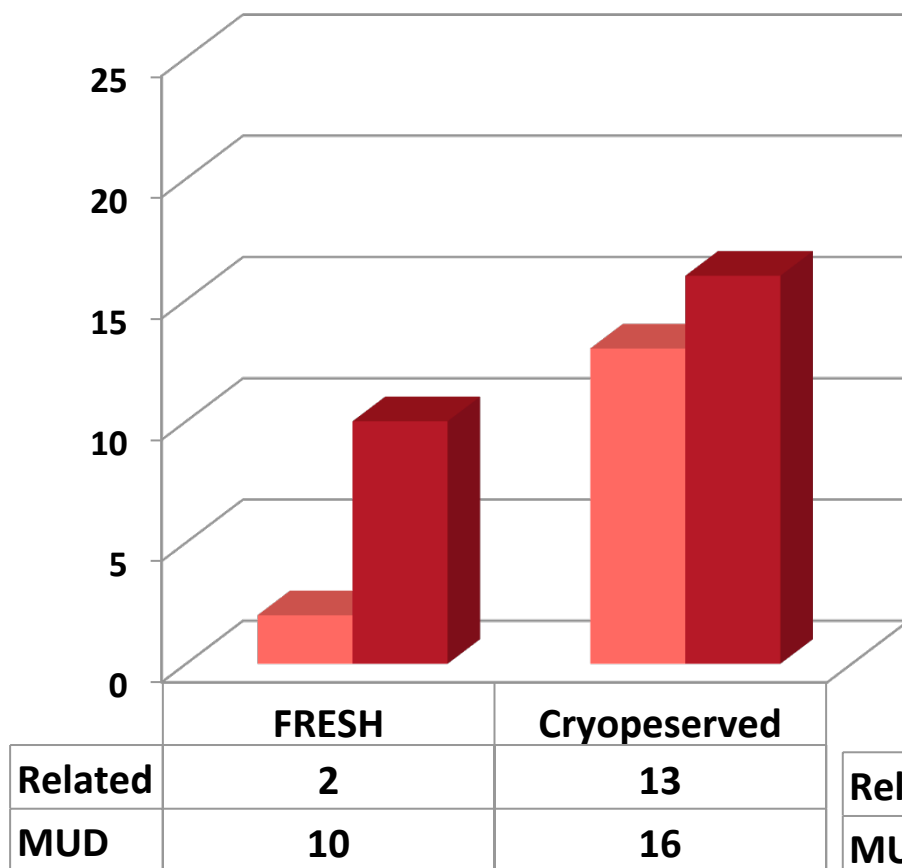
Donors and Graft Source

All Transplants



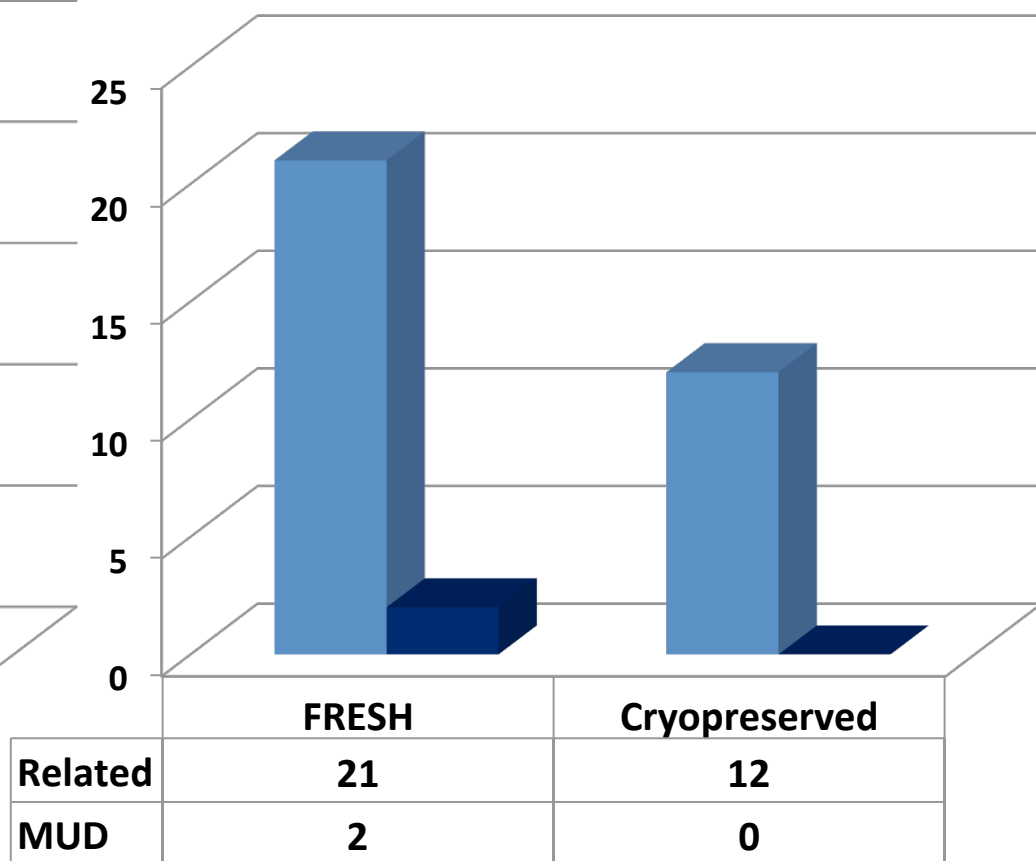
Donors and Graft Source Fresh and Cryopreserved

PBSC



■ Related ■ MUD

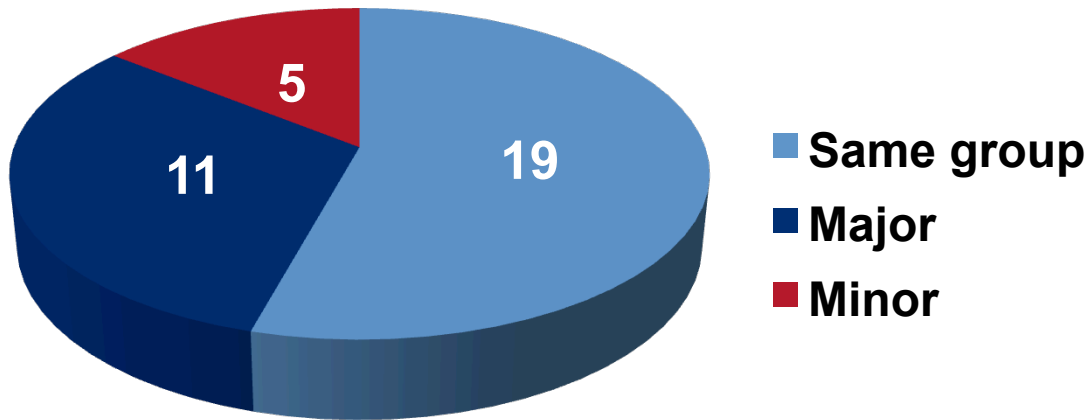
BM



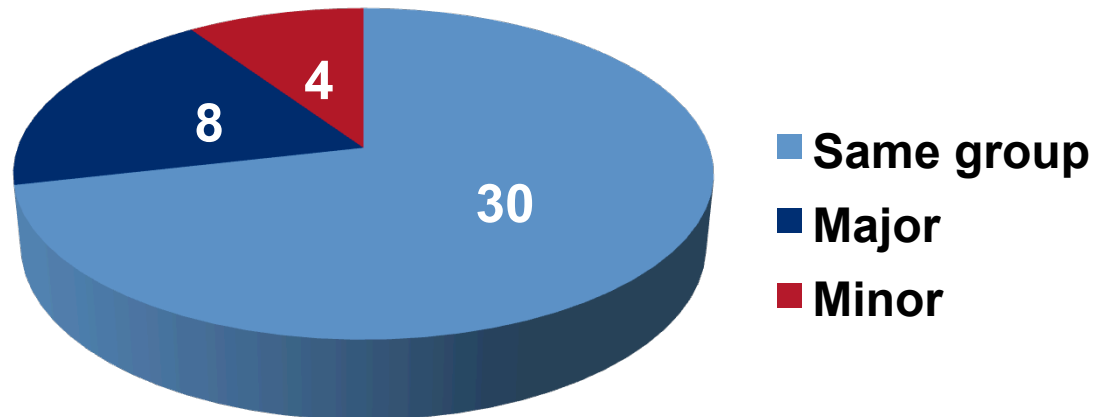
■ Related ■ MUD

Donor/Recipient ABO compatibility

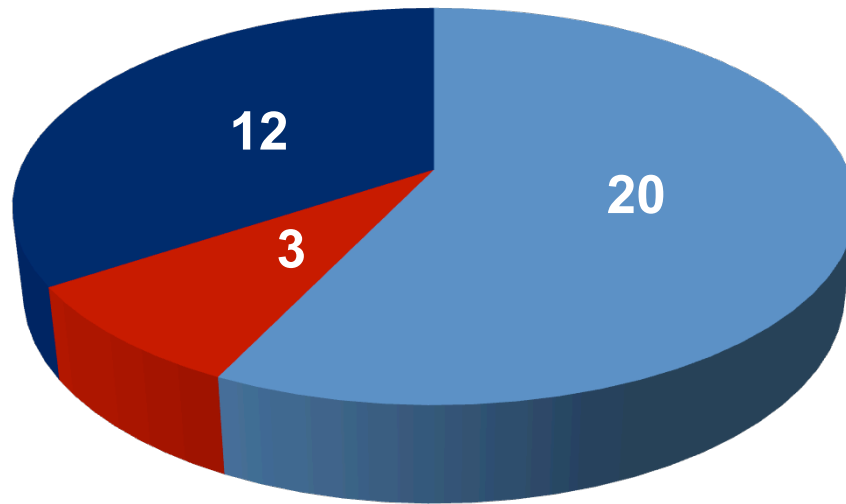
Fresh



Cryopreserved

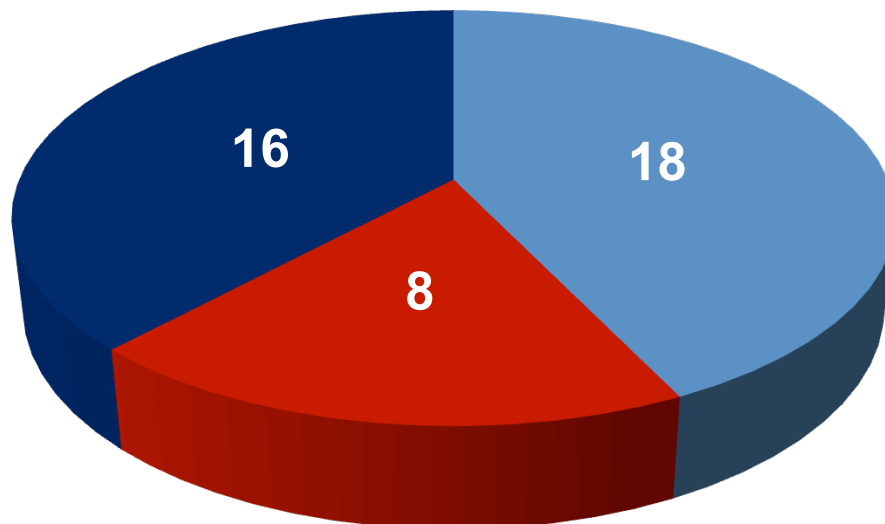


Fresh



- Haploidentical donors
- HLA identical siblings
- MUD

Cryopreserved



- Haploidentical donors
- HLA identical siblings
- MUD

COMPARISON BETWEEN CELL COUNTS EVALUATED IN FRESH BM SAMPLES AND IN BM SAMPLES AT DIFFERENT STEPS BEFORE AND AFTER CRYOPRESERVATION

BM Fresh n 23	
	TNC x 10 ⁸ /Kg
mean	8.53
range	7.75– 14.89

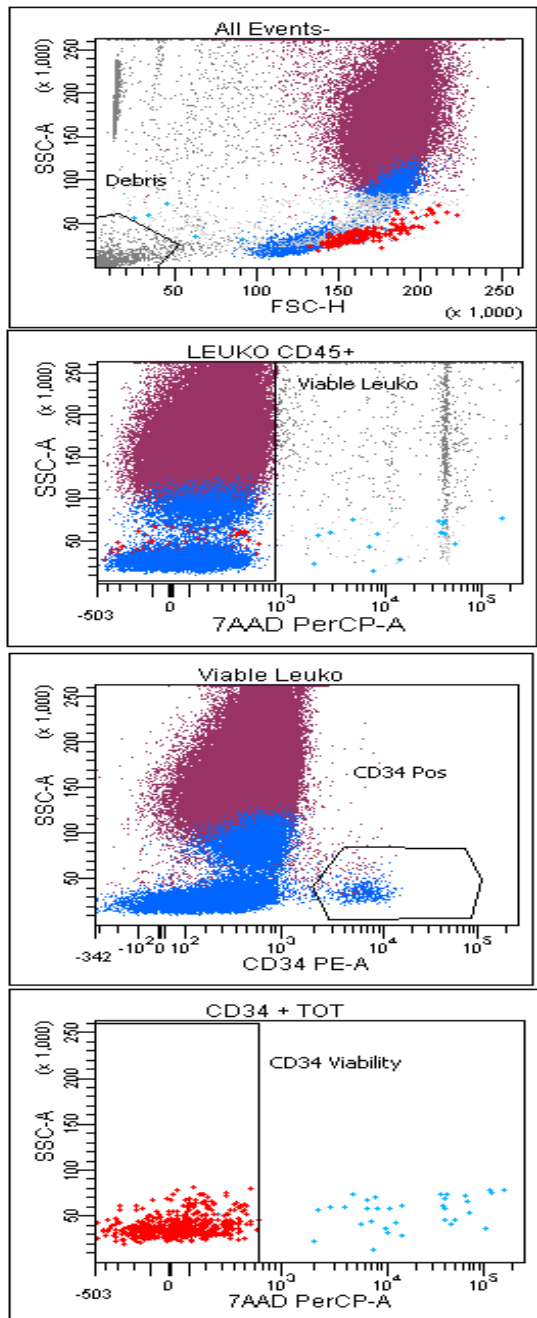
BM Cryopreserved n 12		
	TNC x 10 ⁸ /Kg	
	Harvest	After Erythro
mean	8.22	1.55
range	7.62– 11.44	0.76 – 2.74



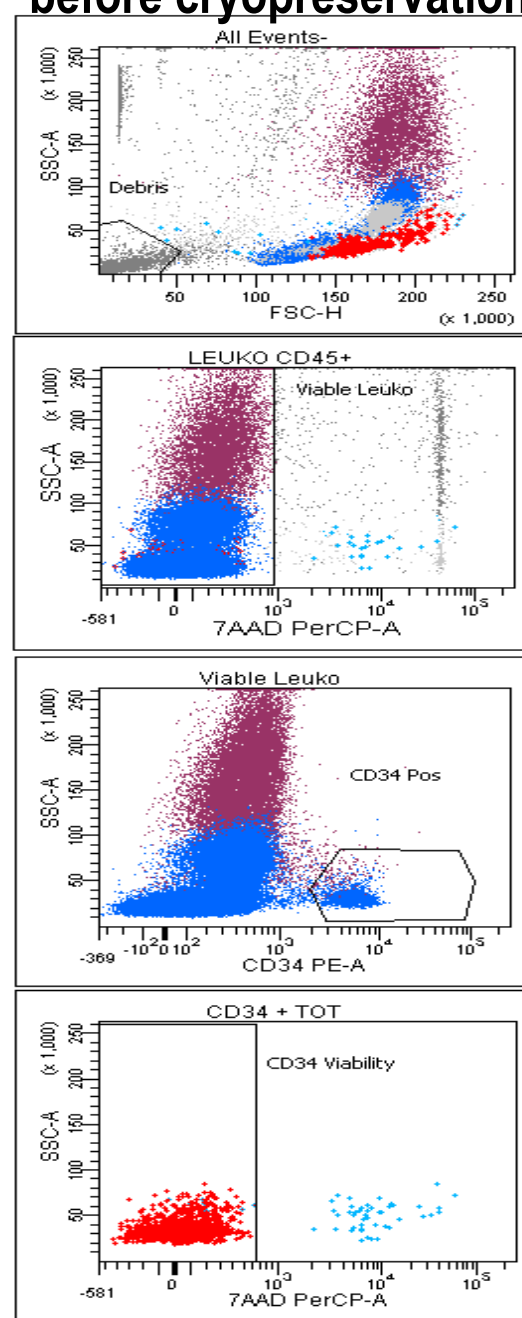
BM Fresh n 23		
	CD34 x 10 ⁶ /Kg	CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg
mean	2.14	44
range	0.48 – 4.9	9 - 82

BM Cryopreserved n 12						
	CD34 x 10 ⁶ /Kg			CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg		
	Harvest	after erythro before freezing	after thawing	Harvest	after erythro before freezing	after thawing
mean	2.53	2.25	2.15	44.5	38	37
range	1.08– 4.60	1.12 – 3.62	1.31 – 3.47	31 - 59	51 - 58	22 - 56

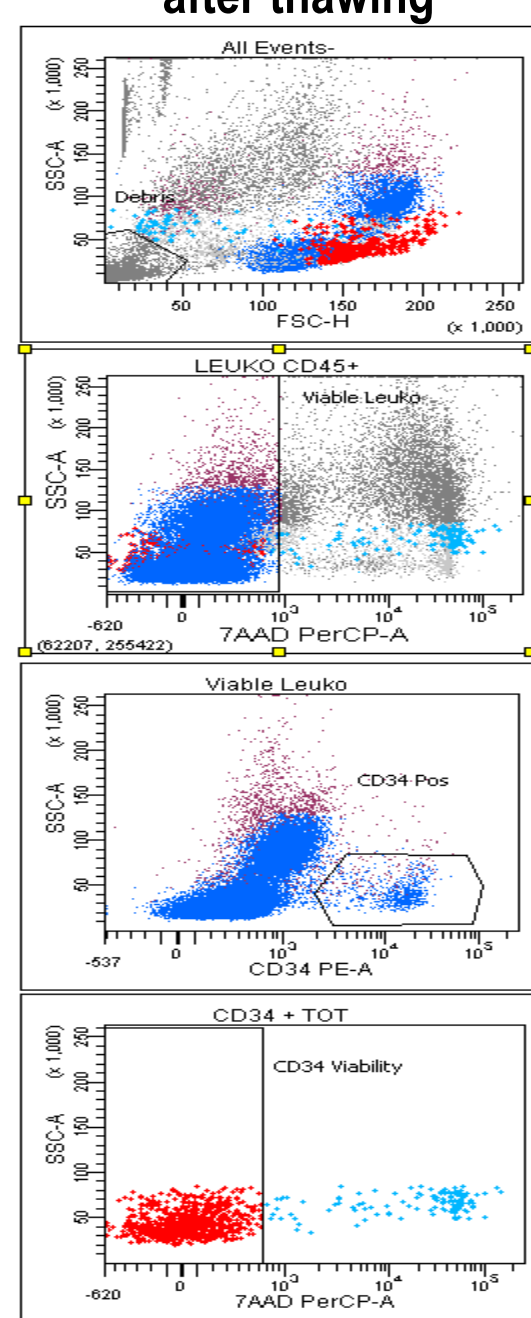
BM before erithroapheresis



**BM after erithroapheresis
before cryopreservation**



**BM Cell viability
after thawing**



**PBSC Fresh
n 12**

	CD34 x 10 ⁶ /Kg	CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg
mean	7.88	265
range	5.3 – 10.2	106 - 753

**COMPARISON BETWEEN CELL
COUNTS EVALUATED IN
FRESH PBSC SAMPLES AND IN
PBSC SAMPLES BEFORE AND
AFTER CRYOPRESERVATION**

**PBSC Cryopreserved
n 28**

	CD34 x 10 ⁶ /Kg Before freezing	CD34 x 10 ⁶ /Kg After thawing	CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg Before freezing	CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg After thawing
mean	7.06	6,81	264	246
range	3.9 - 13	3.4 - 12.9	107 - 488	97 - 448

	WBC Engraftment (1x10e9/L)		PLT Engraftment (independence from transf)	
	Fresh days	Cryopreserved days	Fresh days	Cryopreserved days
BM	17	21	23	30
PBSC	17	20	20	22

Engraftment	
	CORD BLOOD days
WBC	30
PLT	51
n	1

	Fresh	Cryopreserved
Graft Failure	0/35	2/42
Tx related deaths	6/35	5/42

GVHD

Fresh

14 cases out of 35

40%

8 skin / 1 gut / 4 gut + skin / 1 skin + liver

Fresh	Cases	Total Transplants	%
BM	11	23	48
PBSC	2	12	17

Cryopreserved

12 cases out of 42

29%

10 skin / 2 gut + skin

Cryo	Cases	Total Transplants	%
BM	4	12	33
PBSC	8	30	27

GVHD

	Cases	Total Tranplants	%
BM Fresh	11 9 skin 2 skin+gut	23	<u>48</u>
BM Cryo	4 9 skin 2 skin+gut	12	<u>33</u>

	BM Fresh CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg	BM Cryo CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg after thawing
mean	44	37
range	9 - 82	22-56

	Cases	Total Transplants	%
PBSC Fresh	2 1 skin 1 skin+liver	12	<u>17</u>
PBSC Cryo	8 7 skin 1 skin+gut	30	<u>27</u>

	PBSC Fresh CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg	PBSC Cryo CD3 x 10 ⁶ /Kg after thawing
mean	265	246
range	106 - 753	97 - 448

Conclusions (I)

- a) Pandemic is a complex scenario in which hematopoietic transplants must be carried out safely
- b) Monitoring of donors and recipients seems to be mandatory
- c) The complexity to obtain a proper timing between swab molecular responses and stem cell collection , conditioning and reinfusion induces operators of transplant programs to freeze the stem cell product

Conclusions (II)

- a) Freezing of peripheral allogeneic stem cells is a simple procedure and consents similar results as compared to fresh grafts
- b) In case a of a transplant platform where the collection of a bone marrow graft is mandatory or highly recommended, bone marrow must be subjected to red cell removal by separators , freezing and additional quality controls
- c) Quality controls should include functional tests (CFU) that might predict better a possible slow platelet recovery

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