

Bone Marrow Transplants: A Revolutionary Frontier in Cancer Research

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Group Website

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Our topic was chosen because of the impact that bone marrow transplants have had, not only in history, but also in the lives of both the people treated and their friends and family. It is an incontrovertible fact that receiving a bone marrow transplant improves prognosis rates of immunocompromised patients with diseases like leukemias, lymphomas, and anemias. This topic relates to the theme because immunology and hematology were largely unexplored before the 1940s. Once the potential of stem cell transplants were realized by scientists, a new frontier was created. Over the course of 60 years, discoveries were actively made and the efficacy and possibilities of the process were greatly increased.

We conducted our research by using reputable sources from the internet, including the National Health Service and National Library of Medicine. The Library in particular was instrumental due to its concise summary of the events, which helped our understanding of the topic and furthered our ability to present it effectively. Additionally, pieces from news sources like MPR and even international news articles provided us with inspiring stories to complement important events and milestones of patients going through bone marrow transplants. We wanted to incorporate a feeling of humanity into our project by using the experiences of real people, rather than just stating bare facts and being impersonal with our research and summarizations.

We chose the website category because we decided that a website is the best medium to communicate the information we wished to communicate. Simply, any other form would not have the same permanence and accessibility that a website does. We wanted our project to be lasting and leave an impression, with a website accomplishing both of those things perfectly. Additionally, a website allowed all the members of our group to contribute easily and equally without having to meet frequently in person. We created our project by assigning different tasks to different people in the group, and talking regularly and working together to make sure everything was running smoothly. We completed everything ahead of time to leave room for error checking.

The historical argument of our project is that the development of the process of bone marrow transplants was an extremely significant frontier in medicine, specifically in immunology and cancer research, starting in the 1940s and spanning for about 60 years. Our topic is significant in history worldwide and relates to the theme as prior to the development of this treatment, prognosis rates in immunocompromised patients were far lower. For many in later stages of cancers, there were little to no feasible options for treatment, and even the possible options didn't have much hope of remission and cure. However, when the first successful bone marrow transplant on a human was performed, scientists at that time would never have imagined the process to develop this far. This is the frontier that our presentation showcases; a process that was said to be impossible and developed seemingly infinitely in a relatively short period of time, changing the lives of thousands upon thousands.