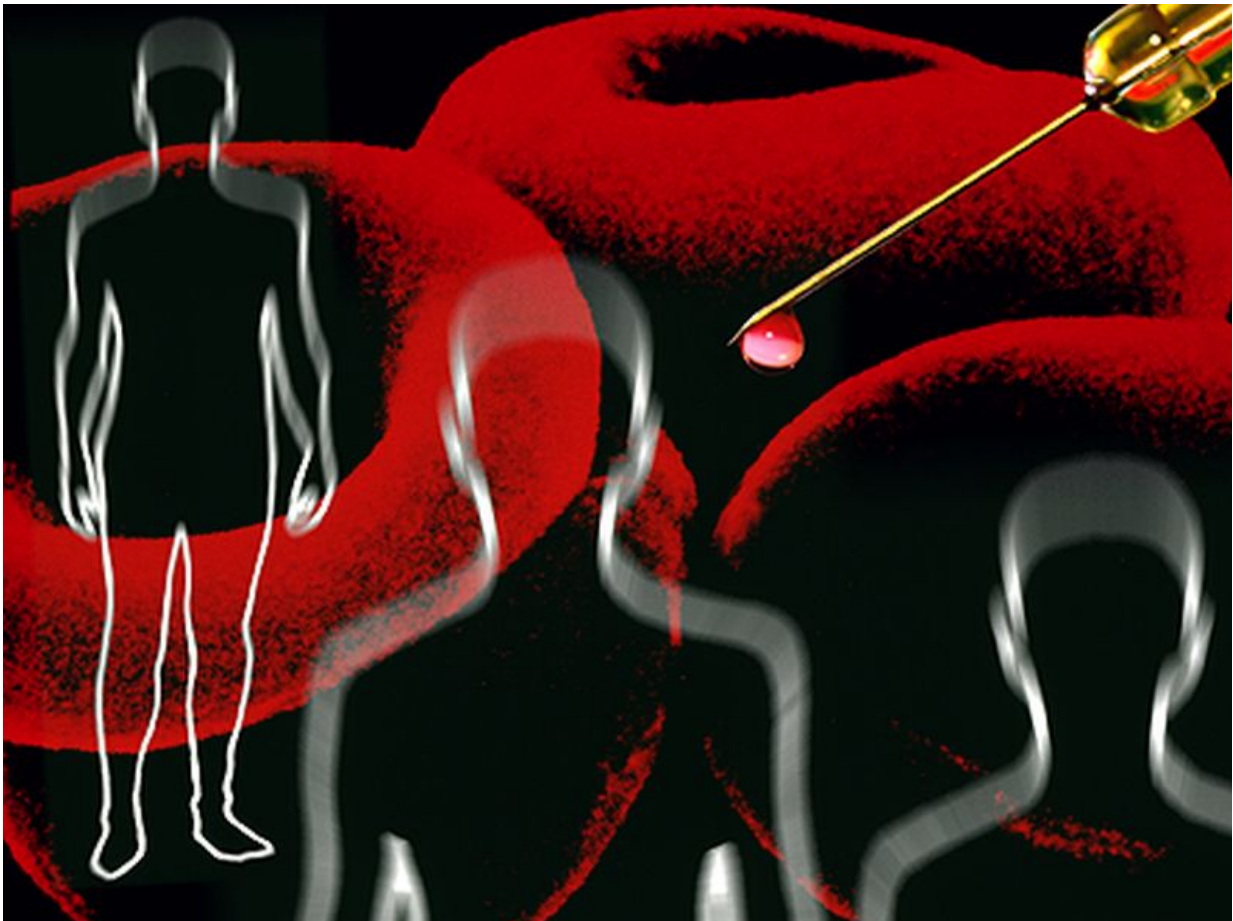


# Good survival for HSCT-treated thalassemia patients

September 13 2017

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(HealthDay)—Patients with thalassemia treated with hematopoietic stem

cell transplantation (HSCT) have 30-year survival that is similar to that of conventionally treated (CT) patients, according to a study published online Aug. 29 in the *American Journal of Hematology*.

Giovani Caocci, M.D., from the University of Cagliari in Italy, and colleagues performed a single-center case-control study involving 258 patients who underwent sibling or unrelated HSCT (97 adults) and 258 age- and sex-matched CT patients.

The researchers found that in transplanted patients, the 30-year overall survival (OS) was  $82.6 \pm 2.7$  percent and thalassemia-free survival (TFS) was  $77.8 \pm 2.9$  percent compared with OS of  $85.3 \pm 2.7$  percent in CT patients ( $P = NS$ ). Grade II-IV acute and chronic graft versus host disease incidence was 23.6 and 12.9 percent, respectively. There was a 6.9 percent probability of rejection. Transplant-related mortality was 13.8 percent, which was similar to the 12.2 percent cardiovascular event mortality in CT patients. High-risk Pesaro score correlated with lower OS and TFS (odds ratios, 1.99 and 1.54, respectively). For adult patients, the 23-year OS and TFS were  $70 \pm 5$  percent and  $67.3 \pm 5$  percent after HSCT compared with OS of  $71.2 \pm 5$  percent in CT ( $P = NS$ ).

"The 30-year survival rate of ex-thalassemia patients after HSCT was similar to that expected in CT thalassemia [patients](#), with the vast majority of HSCT survivors cured from thalassemia," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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