



SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

# Myths vs. Facts

The most common misconceptions about joining the registry - and the truth.

**MYTH: Donating means painful surgery.**

FACT: About 80% of donations are PBSC - a non-surgical procedure similar to donating blood. Marrow donation is an outpatient surgery under anesthesia; most donors are back to normal within a week.

**MYTH: They take marrow from your spine.**

FACT: Marrow is collected from the back of the pelvic (hip) bone. The spine and spinal cord are never involved.

**MYTH: It costs money to donate.**

FACT: Joining is free, and a matched donor never pays for the donation - those costs are covered by the registry or the patient's insurance.

**MYTH: My family is my only chance to match, so the registry does not matter.**

FACT: About 70% of patients who need a transplant do not have a matched donor in their family and rely on the registry of unrelated volunteers.

**MYTH: I signed up years ago, so there is nothing more to do.**

FACT: Keep your contact details current with your registry, and say yes if you are ever called - a match can come years after you join.

**MYTH: Patients of every background match equally.**

FACT: Matches are based on tissue type, which is inherited. Patients are most likely to match donors of a similar ancestry, so a diverse registry saves more lives.

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