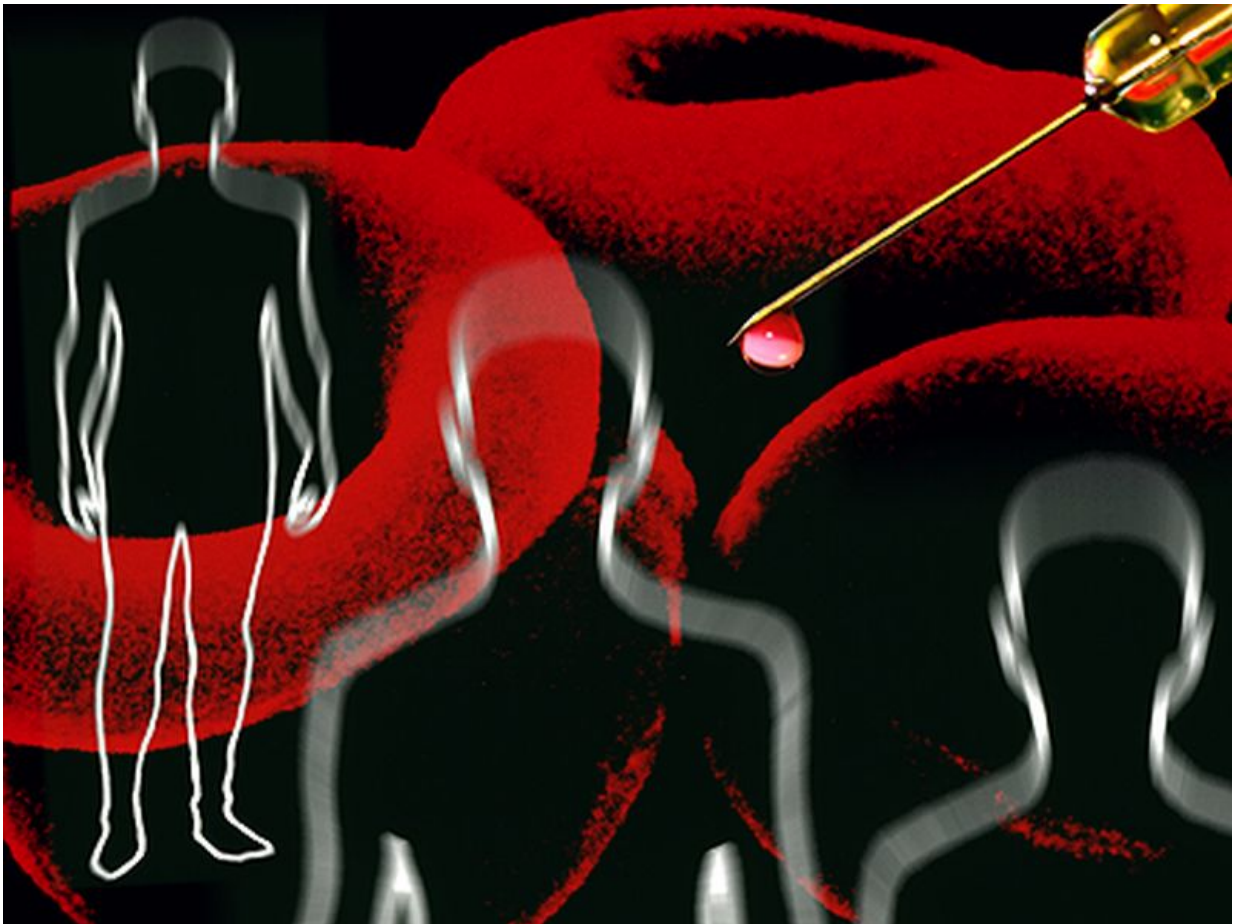


Antibody Tx reduces graft-vs-host post stem cell transplant

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(HealthDay)—Antibody therapy before stem cell transplant may benefit

patients with acute leukemia, according to research published in the Jan. 7 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study included 168 leukemia patients treated at 27 different centers. The volunteers were randomly assigned to receive antihuman T-lymphocyte immune globulin (ATG) or not. After an average follow-up of two years, 32.2 percent of the patients given ATG had chronic graft-versus-host disease. But, 68.7 percent of patients who weren't given ATG had chronic graft-versus-host disease.

At two years, the survival rate was similar in patients who received ATG or didn't. But, the rate of survival in which they were free from chronic graft-versus-host disease and [cancer recurrence](#) was significantly better among patients given the antibody—36.6 versus 16.8 percent, the researchers found.

"Graft-versus-host disease is the most serious complication after stem cell transplantation," lead researcher Francesca Bonifazi, M.D., from the Institute of Hematology at Bologna University in Italy, told *HealthDay*. "Using [ATG] reduces the risk of complications of [stem cell transplants](#) without increasing the risk of leukemia recurrence and infections."

More information: [Full Text](#)

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