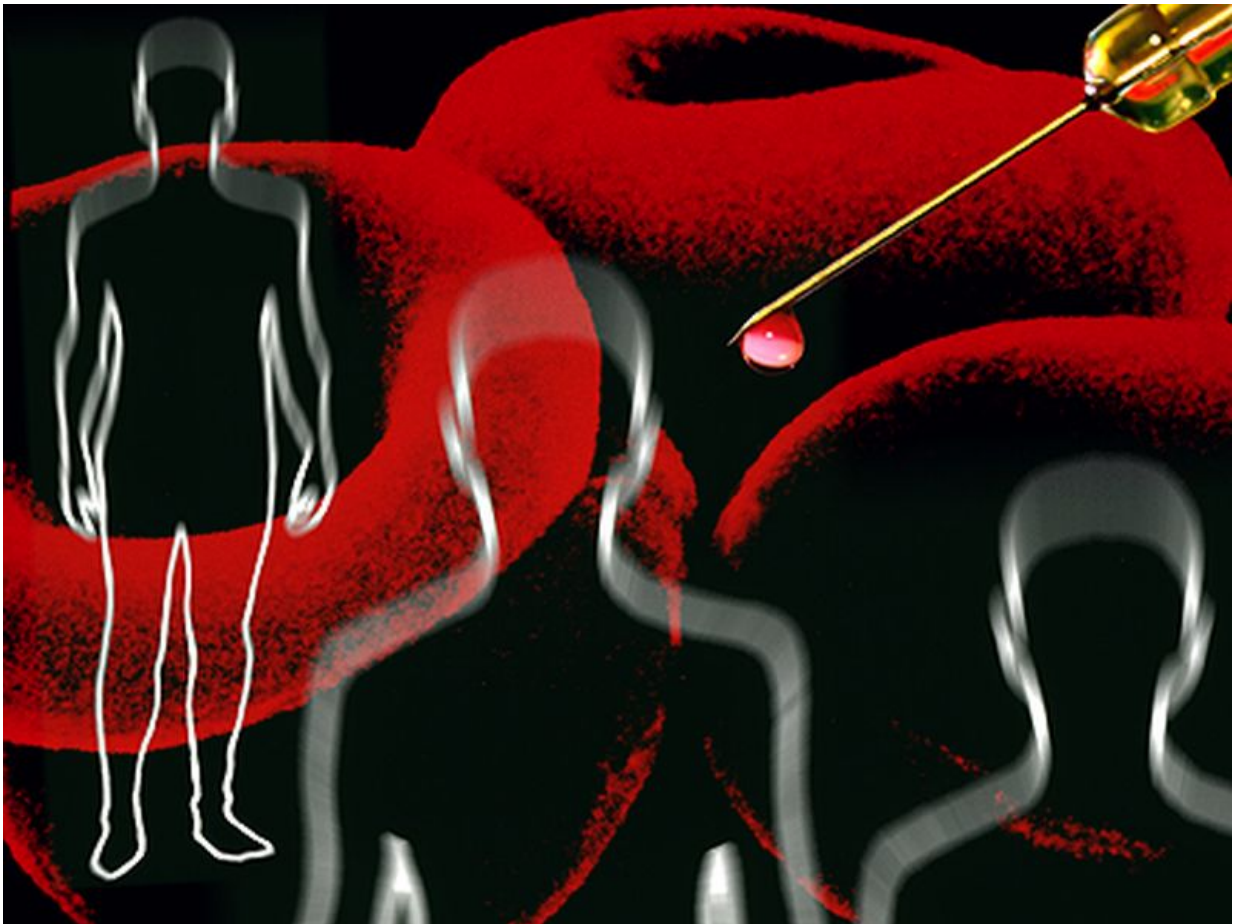


Treating leukemia with cord-blood transplant looks promising

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(HealthDay)—Umbilical cord blood may work as well as current

alternatives for adults and children with leukemia—or even better in some cases, according to a study published in the Sept. 8 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

To compare the success of the different options, researchers looked at 582 patients with leukemia or myelodysplastic syndrome. If a compatible [bone marrow](#) or stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor wasn't available, the patients received either a cord-blood transplant or an incompatible bone marrow or stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor.

"Our study showed that overall survival after cord-blood transplantation was comparable to the one observed after matched unrelated transplants," lead author Filippo Milano, M.D., Ph.D., of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, told *HealthDay*. And patients who got cord-blood transplants seemed to live longer than those who got non-matching bone marrow or [stem cell transplants](#) from unrelated donors, he noted. The cord blood approach appeared especially beneficial for a subset of patients with minimal residual disease.

"Often, cord-blood transplant is thought to be only as the last resource for [patients](#) without donors. But cord blood does not have to be considered only an alternative donor source," Milano said. "In centers with experience, it can yield to great outcomes."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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