

CROSS-CULTURAL GIFT

Mohammad Reza was a normal young man – active, always kicking a ball around with his friends and absolutely crazy about football. In December 2008, life changed abruptly for the 11-year-old when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Suddenly he had to learn a very different game – juggling school work and hospital visits - while trying to come to terms with a diagnosis that offered only one long term alternative: have a bone marrow transplant or die.



With no matching donor within his immediate family, Reza's medical team called on the services of the BMDP to find him a suitable volunteer donor. The search started with the local register and in Reza's case this was enough to identify a perfect match who could save him.

In September 2009, Reza received the most precious gift of all: a life-saving bone marrow transplant. His donor, a Singaporean, was identified on the BMDP register and just like everyone, our hero is just an everyday man – but one individual who has signed up to save a life.

Twelve months post-transplant our young man was up and running again. The work of the BMDP continues and where a local match cannot be found, the search extends around a world with no boundaries, where registers collaborate in the mission to save lives.

ABOUT BMDP

The Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP) is a Singapore-based non-profit organisation dedicated to building a register of Singaporeans who are willing to donate their bone marrow to patients of leukaemia and other blood diseases. BMDP currently has **50,000 donors** in their database and has identified suitable donors for patients in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, US and Europe.

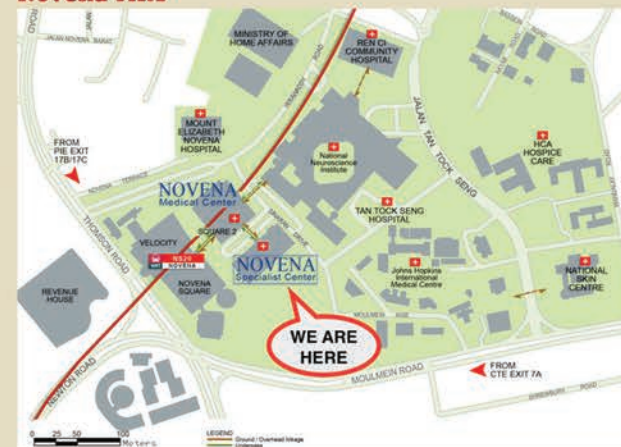
WHERE TO FIND US

8 Sinaran Drive
#03-02, Novena Specialist Center
Singapore 307470
Email: admin@bmdp.org

Getting there:
Alight at bus stop outside Velocity @ Novena,
Bus stop number: B50038

Buses: 21,56,57,131,166,851,980

MRT Station:
Novena MRT



WWW.BMDP.ORG

THE SEARCH FOR A MATCH

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Once a patient has been diagnosed as needing a Bone Marrow Transplant, their medical team will usually look within the immediate family (brothers and sisters) to see if they have a suitable matching donor. In more than 70% of cases, this is not possible and then they partner with the Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP).

As the only bone marrow donor register in Singapore, BMDP is responsible for finding a matching donor for all local patients who need a bone marrow or blood stem cell transplant. With 50,000 donors on the local register, BMDP also serves as the gateway to other bone marrow donor registers worldwide.

This means that the transplant teams can focus on their patients while the BMDP provides a single point of contact to a global database of almost 18 million donors through the Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide (BMDW) network.

We operate as a business recognising that time is often a critical factor for a successful transplant. This means the BMDP is in daily contact with the doctors and transplant coordinators working in the local transplant centres.

CONTACT US

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

Closed on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays

Tel: (65) 6340 1040

Fax: (65) 6340 1041

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the search process like?

A: As soon as we receive a request from your transplant physician, we conduct a preliminary search on the local donor database. Following that, we conduct searches on the Singapore Cord Blood Bank, BMDW and specific registers as instructed by your transplant physician.

We will then submit the results to your transplant physician within 24 hours of receiving the results.

Q: What happens when you find a match?

A: Once a match is found, your doctor will instruct us to contact the specific donor and arrange for the "Confirmatory Tests" to make sure the donor is a perfect match for you. The next stage for a local donor will be a physical examination that is coordinated by the BMDP and for an overseas donor, we coordinate with the overseas register.

Q: If the donor is overseas, do I have to pay for them to come to Singapore?

A: No, only the harvested bone marrow or blood stem cells are transported around the world. The BMDP has a team of trained volunteer couriers who do this on a regular basis.

Q: How long does it take to find a match?

A: This can vary but on average the time from the search request to transplant is around 15 weeks.

Q: What happens while I am waiting to find a donor?

A: Your transplant team are very experienced and they know the kind of treatment and regimen that is required to support the patient during this period.

Q: Do I need to request for searches for overseas registers myself?

A: No. BMDP is your one-stop service to search for your matching donor. We will conduct search requests for you on overseas registers under the direction of your transplant physician.

Q: Do you recommend having close family members tested to try and identify a match?

A: Generally only immediate siblings with the same parents are likely to be a match but your doctor would advise if other family members should be tested.

Q: How much will your services cost me?

A: The preliminary search on the BMDP donor register is free. We charge the remaining services on a cost recovery basis.

Q: Do I get to meet my donor?

A: BMDP treats every search request professionally with strict confidentiality. However, if you wish to give any token of thanks to your donor, we will be glad to help you pass it on.

OUR EXTENSIVE NETWORK

Through our membership of BMDW, the Singapore BMDP is connected to stem cell donor registers in more than **48 countries** around the world, giving us access to **20 million donors**.

