Management and analyses of registry database of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in Japan

Introduction of Transplant Registry Unified Management Program 2 (TRUMP2): scripts for TRUMP data analyses, part I (variables other than HLA-related data)

Yoshiko Atsuta¹

Received: 5 October 2015 / Revised: 28 October 2015 / Accepted: 28 October 2015 / Published online: 7 November 2015 © The Japanese Society of Hematology 2015

Abstract Collection and analysis of information on diseases and post-transplant courses of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients have played important roles in improving therapeutic outcomes in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Efficient, high-quality data collection systems are essential. The introduction of the Second-Generation Transplant Registry Unified Management Program (TRUMP2) is intended to improve data quality and more efficient data management. The TRUMP2 system will also expand possible uses of data, as it is capable of building a more complex relational database. The construction of an accessible data utilization system for adequate data utilization by researchers would promote greater research activity. Study approval and management processes and authorship guidelines also need to be organized within this context. Quality control of processes for data manipulation and analysis will also affect study outcomes. Shared scripts have been introduced to define variables according to standard definitions for quality control and improving efficiency of registry studies using TRUMP data.

Keywords TRUMP2 · Outcome registry · Shared script

y-atsuta@jdchct.or.jp

Yoshiko Atsuta

Collection of HSCT outcome data and its utilization

Globally, the collection and analysis of information on diseases and post-transplant courses of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients have played important roles in the improvement of therapeutic outcome of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation [1, 2]. Patient registries, typically referred to as outcome registries, are organized systems that utilize observational study methods to collect uniform data to evaluate specified outcomes for a particular disease, condition, or exposure [3, 4]. In Japan, with the Japan Society for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (JSHCT) as a hub in collaboration with the Japanese Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (JSPO), the Japan Marrow Donor Program (JMDP), cord blood banks, and more than 300 transplant centers throughout the country have made efforts to collect and analyze information on disease types and post-transplant courses of recipients for more than 20 years [5, 6]. The Japanese Data Center for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (JDCHCT) was founded and began operations in 2014. The JDCHCT is responsible for collecting and analyzing HSCT recipient and donor information based on the "Act for Appropriate Provision of Hematopoietic Stem Cells to be Used in Transplantations" with government support from 2014 in collaboration with JSHCT.

Introduction of a second-generation Transplant Registry Unified Management Program

HSCT clinical outcome data are collected through Transplant Registry Unified Management Program (TRUMP),



Japanese Data Center for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, 1-1-20 Daiko-Minami, Higashi-ku, Nagoya 461-0047, Japan

as described previously [5]. The first-generation TRUMP (TRUMP1) was a computer-based software suite developed to manage HSCT outcome data offline in transplant centers. Anonymous and encrypted submission datasets were stored locally and sent to the data center by postal mail or using a web submission page. A logical check program was implemented within TRUMP1 to check for missing or inconsistent data. Introduction of TRUMP1 was a success, with an introduction rate of >99 % among approximately 250 adult and 90 pediatric transplant centers in Japan. However, TRUMP1 had a number of limitations. Because TRUMP1 was an offline program, data collection had to go through a complex and time consuming process. For HSCT from unrelated donors, donor baseline data were sent to the center from JMDP or cord blood banks via reporting fax sheet, and the data were entered into TRUMP1 within the transplant center. Second-generation TRUMP (TRUMP2) was released in 2015. TRUMP2 is a web-based HSCT registry database and can also be used offline for transplant centers not capable of reporting online. The program includes 1251 items for outcome data collection, and it correlates with international harmonized essential data, i.e., Transplant Essential Data of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research or Medical Essential Data A of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. A data linkage system with JMDP and cord blood banks is implemented in TRUMP2. Recipient and donor baseline, HLA, or cell dose at harvest information are provided by the JMDP or cord blood banks for HSCT cases from unrelated donors. An anonymized identification number is provided upon entry on TRUMP2 for each recipient. For recipients of multiple HSCT, the same anonymized identification number is given for the recipient, and HSCT cases are identified with date of HSCT as the key variable.

The outcome data collection consists of two types of data submission: "Basic Registration" within the first 2 months of the year to report 10 items for each HSCT cases performed in the previous year and "Main Registration" about 6 months later to report all required items. Information on survival, underlying disease status, and long-term complications, including chronic GVHD and subsequent malignancies, is renewed annually. Logical check program to check missing data and inconsistent data is implemented for data quality management. An error list is generated for each HSCT cases. For missing data, for example, reasons for data missing need to be identified for the submission to be considered complete. Completeness of data entry and follow-up for each center is included in annual report of the JDCHCT/JSHCT, which is published openly on the JDCHCT web page. Reporting of outcome data of all HSCT cases is required for center approval of the JMDP and cord blood banks.

TRUMP forms are revised periodically. Revisions are proposed from Working Groups, which are described in the following section, researchers, or members of data

center staff. Revision proposals are required to undergo careful review and approval before application to TRUMP. Additional data collections for certain studies are also performed. The number of studies requiring additional data collection is limited by data center resources and in consideration of transplant center burdens.

Utilization of data and publication

This outcome data can in turn serve as the basis for future scientific and clinical trials or policymaking. Findings from observational research have led to significant improvement in the field of HSCT and better clinical trial planning [7]. Collaboration and sharing of data for maximum utilization and optimizing patient outcome is the key to an effective registry. To promote data utilization for research, it is necessary to ensure high-quality data and to construct an accessible data utilization system for researchers. The JSHCT formed Working Groups for HSCT research, which are similar to Working Committees of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research and Working Parties of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. The JDCHCT supports Working Group activities and promotes collaborative studies with other research groups. These activities to promote research contributed to increased publications using TRUMP data in this field. Registry studies using TRUMP data are capable of addressing questions such as HSCT results in specific patient groups, analysis of prognostic factors, evaluation of conditioning regimens, comparison of donor/stem cell sources, and characterizing rare late effects. Linking clinical data with immunological and genetic information can provide important insights into transplant biology. Study proposal and approval process, study progress management process, and authorship guidelines are organized and managed accordingly.

Fixed TRUMP dataset

The TRUMP dataset is fixed annually and is used to generate annual report/summary slides for HSCT activities and outcomes and for other research purposes. The fixed TRUMP dataset is structured according to a data collection item list containing 1251 variables with various types of values. Outcome data collection by the JSHCT was initiated in 1993, and the forms have undergone various revisions. In addition, four registries (JSHCT, JSPO, JMDP, and cord blood banks coordinated by the Japan Cord Blood Bank Network) used different forms with different items and values until unification and harmonization of the forms, which has been described elsewhere [5]. These collected data before introduction of TRUMP1 are converted to TRUMP structure,



and were imported to TRUMP1 in each transplant center. All submitted HSCT outcome data are thus formatted in the TRUMP structure, and follow-up information on surviving recipients can be entered by using TRUMP2. However, for data collected before the introduction of TRUMP1, only limited data fields were required at the time of data submission, and no logical check programs were in place.

Registry studies are observational studies that are retrospective in nature. Extreme care should be given to identify and address possible biases. Misunderstanding of data definitions or mishandling of variables and values including missing values may lead to wrong conclusions. Careful handling is required in the selection of subjects for analyses. Inclusion and exclusion criteria should be defined clearly. Completeness of follow-up is also an important issue. Discrepancies between groups for comparison in completeness of follow-up may need to inappropriate comparison. Users of TRUMP data for research should thus understand both the current form and past forms, including the revision process.

Shared script for defining variables

Certain baseline, disease, transplant-related, or outcome variables are repeatedly used in HSCT outcome registry studies. The JDCHCT and JSHCT defined and introduced shared scripts to define variables according to unified definition for quality control and improving the efficiency of registry studies using TRUMP data. Shared scripts are developed using Stata (Stata Corporation, College Station TX, USA) and R (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria) or EZR. EZR is a graphical user interface for R, and a modified version of R commander is designed to add statistical functions that are frequently used in biostatistics [8].

The data management process for observational research includes generating and defining variables, defining study subjects and characteristics, and performing statistical analyses as designed. Extreme care should be given to quality management of statistical analyses. Shared scripts can play a role in guaranteeing the reproducibility of statistical analyses. The script used for final analyses and its log should be recorded along with statistical results. Educational seminars for shared scripts and fixed TRUMP dataset are held periodically.

Baseline, disease, and transplant variables

Variables generated with shared scripts are shown in Table 1. HLA variables and HLA matching variables are described in a different paper in the same series.

Baseline variables include recipient and donor age, age groups, sex, and ABO type. Recipient-donor sex and ABO matching variable is also generated. Disease risk for leukemia is defined as standard vs. advanced or low risk vs. high risk, according to the disease status at transplant. Three frequently used disease-risk groups for leukemia are provided: First or second complete remission (CR) of AML, 1CR of ALL, first chronic phase of CML, and refractory anemia or refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts as standard-risk diseases vs. advanced for all others. First or second CR of AML and ALL, first or second chronic phase of CML, and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) for low risk and all others for high risk. For the third risk group, probabilities of 5-year overall survival of greater than 45 % in TRUMP 2010 fixed dataset were considered standard risk. Five-year overall survival of leukemia (AML, ALL, CML and MDS) was 43.3 % (95 % confidence interval 42.8-44.1 %), and was considered as the reference. First or second complete remission (CR) of AML and ALL, first or second chronic phase and accelerated phase of CML, and refractory anemia or refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts of MDS as standard-risk diseases vs. advanced for all others.

Conditioning regimens were classified as myeloablative if total body irradiation >8 Gy, oral busulfan >9 mg/kg, intravenous busulfan ≥ 7.2 mg/kg, or melphalan > 140 mg/m² was used based on the report from the CIBMTR [9, 10]. Those with insufficient information on the doses of agents or radiation used for the conditioning regimen were classified according to information on conditioning intensity (whether or not the conditioning regimen was intended to be myeloablative) as reported by the treating clinicians. According to the logic above, approximately 15 % of conditioning intensity information reported by the treating clinicians was re-classified. Conditioning regimens are categorized by the agents used in typical regimens, i.e., cyclophosphamide and total body irradiation (TBI)containing regimen, other TBI-containing regimen, busulfan- and cyclophosphamide-containing non-TBI regimen, and other non-TBI regimen for myeloablative conditioning regimens, fludarabine- and busulfan-containing regimen, fludarabine- and cyclophosphamide-containing regimen, fludarabine and melphalan-containing regimens, and other regimens for reduced intensity conditioning. GVHD prophylaxis variable is categorized as cyclosporine based and tacrolimus based. In vivo T cell depletion is defined if campath, ATG, or ALG is used for conditioning or GVHD prophylaxis.

A variable list with definitions and values is provided with the shared scripts for Working Group members of the JSHCT. Other variables needed for each study can also be efficiently generated by using the shared script.



Table 1 Baseline, disease, and transplant variables defined in shared scripts

Variable	Variable name for EZR/R	Variable name for Stata	Categories/value description
Year of transplant	.SCT.Year	tyear	Continuous variable
Duration from diagnosis to transplant	.DxToSCT	dx_to_sct	Continuous variable, days
Duration from diagnosis to transplant,	.DxToSCT.Group	dx_to_sct_group	≤90 days
group variable			90–180 days
			>180 days
Stem cell source	.Source	source	Bone marrow
			Peripheral blood
			Bone marrow + peripheral blood
			Cord blood
			Other
Donor type	.Donor.Type	donor_cd	Autologous
31			Syngeneic
			Related
			Unrelated
Donor type for related transplant		rel	Sibling
			Other relatives
Transplant type	.SCT.Type	sct_type	Autologous
Transplant type	.5С1.1урс	set_type	Bone marrow from related donors
			Peripheral blood from related donors
			Bone marrow from unrelated donors
			Peripheral blood from unrelated donor
			Cord blood from unrelated donors
Recipient age at transplant	Aga	nt ogo	Continuous variable
Recipient age at transplant, group variable 1	.Age .Age.Group1	pt_age pt_age_group1	0–15
receipient age at transplant, group variable i			16–39
			40-
Desinient age at transplant, group veriable 2		pt_age_group2	0–9
Recipient age at transplant, group variable 2			10–19
			20–29
			30–39
			40–49 50–59
			60-
Recipient sex	.Sex.R	pt_sex	Female
D.			Male
Donor sex	.Sex.D	donor_sex	Female
			Male
Recipient and donor sex matching, group 1	.Sex.Mismatch1	sex_mismatch1	Match
	.Sex.Mismatch2	sex_mismatch2	Mismatch
Recipient and donor sex matching, group 2			Match
			Male to female
			Female to male
ECOG performance status	.PS24	ps24	0–1
			2–
Recipient ABO type	.ABO.R	pt_abo	O; A; B; AB
Donor ABO type	.ABO.D	do_abo	O; A; B; AB
Recipient and donor ABOmajor mismatch	.ABO.MajorMis	abo_majormis	Match
			Major mismatch



Table 1 continued

Variable	Variable name for EZR/R	Variable name for Stata	Categories/value description
Recipient and donor ABOminor mismatch	.ABO.MinorMis	abo_minormis	Match
			Minor mismatch
Recipient and donor ABO matching	.ABO.Mismatch	abo_mismatch	Matched
			Minor mismatch
			Major mismatch
			Major-minor mismatch
Diagnosis	.Disease	diagnosis2	Acute myeloid leukemia
2.100.00			Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
			Adult T cell lymphoma/leukemia
			Chronic myeloid leukemia
			Myelodysplastic syndromes
			Other leukemia
			Myeloproliferative neoplasms
			Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
			Hodgkin's lymphoma
			Chronic lymphoid leukemia
			Other lymphomas
			Multiple myeloma
			Plasma cell leukemia
			POEMS
			Amyloidosis
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			Other plasma cell neoplasms
			Aplastic anemia
			Pure red cell anemia
			Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
			Congenital bone marrow failure
			Other bone marrow failure
			Solid tumor
			Epstein Barr virus related disorders
			Hemophagocytic syndrome/Langer- hans cell histocytosis
			Autoimmune disease
			Inborn metabolism errors
			Primary immunodeficiency
			Others
			Missing
Disease stage at transplant for leukemia, group 1		stage1	Standard (AML:1CR/2CR, ALL:1CR, CML:1CP, MDS:RA/RARS)
			Advanced (all others)
Disease stage at transplant for leukemia, group 2	.Disease.Risk1	stage2	Low risk (AML/ALL:CR1, CR2, CML:CP1, CP2, MDS)
			High risk (all others)
Disease stage at transplant for leukemia, group 3	.Disease.Risk2	stage3	Standard (AML/ALL: CR1, CR2, CML: CP1, CP2, AP, MDS: RA, RARS)
			Advanced (all others)
Conditioning (myeloablative or reduced	.MAC.RIC	ric_mac	Reduced intensity conditioning
intensity)			Myeloablative conditioning
Total body irradiation	.TBI	tbi	No TBI
20m 50dy firmandion			ТВІ



Table 1 continued

Variable	Variable name for EZR/R	Variable name for Stata	Categories/value description
Full total body irradiation	.FullTBI	tbi_full	Full TBI considered as TBI greater than 8 Gy
Conditioning regimen	.Conditioning	cond	Myeloablative conditioning
			$CY + TBI \pm$
			Other TBI regimen
			$BU + CY \pm$
			Other non-TBI
			Reduced intensity conditioning
			$FL \pm TBI \pm$
			Other RIST
			Missing
Reduced intensity conditioning regimens	.Conditioning2	cond2	$FL + BU \pm$
			$FL + CY \pm$
			$FL + Mel \pm$
			Other RIST
GVHD prophylaxis, group 1	.GVHD.Pro	gvhd_pro	None
			Cyclosporine and methotrexate
			Cyclosporine without methotrexate
			Tacrolimus and methotrexate
			Tacrolimus without methotrexate
			Other
			Missing
GVHD prophylaxis, group 2	.CSA.TAC	gvhd_pro2	Cyclosporine based
			Tacrolimus based
In vivo T cell depletion	.TCD.invivo	tcd_invivo	Yes if alemtuzumab/ATG/ALG used

AML acute myeloid leukemia, ALL acute lymphoblastic leukemia, MDS myelodysplastic syndromes, CML chronic myeloid leukemia, CR complete remission, CP chronic phase, RA refractory anemia, RARS refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts, TBI total body irradiation, CY cyclophosphamide, BU busulfan, FL fludarabine, MEL melphalan, ATG antithymocyte globulin, ALG antilymphocyte globulin

Outcome variables

Event and time variables for outcomes after HSCT are defined and generated as described in Table 2. Overall survival is defined as time from transplant to death from any cause. Neutrophil recovery was defined as an absolute neutrophil count of at least 500 cells per cubic millimeter for three consecutive points; platelet recovery was defined as a count of at least 20,000 or 50,000 platelets per cubic millimeter without transfusion support. Diagnosis and clinical grading of acute GVHD were performed according to the established criteria [11, 12]. Relapse was defined as the recurrence of underlying hematological malignant diseases. Clinical/hematological relapse was considered for relapse for shared script. Cytogenetic or molecular relapse was considered clinical relapse if therapy was given for disease after cytogenetic/molecular relapse. A relapse variable is generated in consideration for use in acute leukemia. Date of disease progression information is collected for lymphoma or multiple myeloma. Disease progression event variables need to be generated differently for these diseases. Transplant-related death was defined as death during a continuous remission.

Competing risk events are also defined. For neutrophil and platelet recovery, death before neutrophil or platelet recovery was the competing event; for GVHD, death without GVHD and relapse were competing events; for relapse, death without relapse was the competing event; and for transplant-related mortality (TRM), relapse was the competing event [13, 14].

Conclusion

Efficient and high-quality data collection systems are essential and play important roles in HSCT outcome registries. The introduction of TRUMP2 will lead to better quality of data and more efficient data management. TRUMP2



Table 2 Outcome variables defined in shared scripts

Outcome	Event variable values	Time variable values
Survival outcomes		
Overall survival (overall mortal-	Alive	Days/years from transplant to last contact
ity)	Dead	Days/years from transplant to death
Relapse free survival	Alive without disease	Days/years from transplant to last contact
	Relapse or death	Days/years from transplant to relapse/death
Outcomes with competing risks		
Relapse/non-relapse mortality	Relapse	Days/years from transplant to relapse
	Death in remission	Days/years from transplant to death
	Alive without disease (censored)	Days/years from transplant to last contact
Neutrophil recovery	Neutrophil recovery	Days from transplant to neutrophil recovery
	Death without neutrophil recovery	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without neutrophil recovery (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact
Platelet recovery (20,000/μ1)	Platelet recovery of greater than 20,000/μ1	Days from transplant to platelet recovery of greater than 20,000/μl
	Death without platelet recovery of greater than $20,000/\mu 1$	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without platelet recovery (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact
Platelet recovery (50,000/µl)	Platelet recovery of greater than $50,000/\mu 1$	Days from transplant to platelet recovery of greater than $50,000/\mu l$
	Death without platelet recovery of greater than $50,000/\mu 1$	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without platelet recovery (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact
Acute GVHD grade	0	
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
Grade 2–4 acute GVHD	Grade 2–4 acute GVHD	Days from transplant to development of grade 2 or greater acute GVHD
	Death without development of grade 2–4 acute GVHD	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without development of grade 2–4 acute GVHD (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact
Grade 3–4 acute GVHD	Grade 3–4 acute GVHD	Days from transplant to development of grade 3 or greater acute GVHD
	Death without development of grade 3–4 acute GVHD	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without development of grade 3–4 acute GVHD (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact
Chronic GVHD	Chronic GVHD	Days from transplant to development of chronic GVHD
	Death without development of chronic GVHD	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without development of chronic GVHD (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact
Extensive-type chronic GVHD	Extensive-type chronic GVHD	Days from transplant to development of chronic GVHD
	Death without development of extensive-type chronic GVHD	Days from transplant to death
	Alive without development of extensive-type chronic GVHD (censored)	Days from transplant to last contact

GVHD graft-versus-host disease



is also expected to expand possibilities for data usage, for it is capable of building richer relational databases. For adequate data utilization, the construction of an accessible data utilization system for researchers would promote research activity. Study approval and management process and authorship guidelines need to be organized with the data utilization system. Quality control of data manipulation and analyses process is also considered to affect study outcomes. Shared scripts are introduced to define variables according to unified definition for quality control and improving efficiency of registry studies using TRUMP data.

Acknowledgments The author is grateful to Drs. Yoshinobu Kanda and Junya Kanda for co-development of shared script, and to Dr. Tatsuo Ichinohe, the chair of the Unification Management Committee of the Japanese Data Center for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation for organization and management of the data utilization system. The author is also grateful for the assistance and cooperation of staff members at collaborating institutes of the cord blood banks in Japan, the Japan Marrow Donor Program, the Japan Society for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, and the Japanese Data Center for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, especially Mr. Satoshi Yamada, Mr. Hideki Tsuboi, and Ms. Tomomi Hioki for the development and maintenance of TRUMP2; Ms. Mio Kurata and Ms. Atsumi Yanagisawa for statistical support; Ms. Chika Ito, Ms. Yumi Yoneyama, Ms. Yukari Nakao, and Ms. Natsuki Matsubara for management of data utilization system; and Ms. Misuzu Kamakura and Ms. Yuki Matsubara for administrative support. This work was supported in part by the Practical Research Project for Allergic Diseases and Immunology (Research Technology of Medical Transplantation) from the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, AMED.

References

- Aljurf M, Rizzo JD, Mohty M, Hussain F, Madrigal A, Pasquini MC, et al. Challenges and opportunities for HSCT outcome registries: perspective from international HSCT registries experts. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2014;49:1016–21.
- Horowitz M. The role of registries in facilitating clinical research in BMT: examples from the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2008;42(Suppl 1):S1-2.

- Benson K, Hartz AJ. A comparison of observational studies and randomized, controlled trials. N Engl J Med. 2000;342:1878–86.
- Concato J, Shah N, Horwitz RI. Randomized, controlled trials, observational studies, and the hierarchy of research designs. N Engl J Med. 2000;342:1887–92.
- Atsuta Y, Suzuki R, Yoshimi A, Gondo H, Tanaka J, Hiraoka A, et al. Unification of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation registries in Japan and establishment of the TRUMP System. Int J Hematol. 2007;86:269–74.
- Kodera Y. The Japan Marrow Donor Program, the Japan Cord Blood Bank Network and the Asia Blood and Marrow Transplant Registry. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2008;42:S6.
- Pasquini MC, Griffith LM, Arnold DL, Atkins HL, Bowen JD, Chen JT, et al. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for multiple sclerosis: collaboration of the CIBMTR and EBMT to facilitate international clinical studies. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2010;16:1076–83.
- Kanda Y. Investigation of the freely available easy-to-use software 'EZR' for medical statistics. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2013;48:452–8.
- Giralt S, Ballen K, Rizzo D, Bacigalupo A, Horowitz M, Pasquini M, et al. Reduced-intensity conditioning regimen workshop: defining the dose spectrum. Report of a workshop convened by the center for international blood and marrow transplant research. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2009;15:367–9.
- Bacigalupo A, Ballen K, Rizzo D, Giralt S, Lazarus H, Ho V, et al. Defining the intensity of conditioning regimens: working definitions. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2009;15:1628–33.
- Przepiorka D, Weisdorf D, Martin P, Klingemann HG, Beatty P, Hows J, et al. 1994 consensus conference on acute GVHD grading. Bone Marrow Transplant. 1995;15:825–8.
- Flowers ME, Kansu E, Sullivan KM. Pathophysiology and treatment of graft-versus-host disease. Hematol Oncol Clin N Am. 1999;13:1091–1112, viii–ix.
- Klein JP, Rizzo JD, Zhang MJ, Keiding N. Statistical methods for the analysis and presentation of the results of bone marrow transplants. Part I: unadjusted analysis. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2001;28:909–15.
- Iacobelli S, Committee ES. Suggestions on the use of statistical methodologies in studies of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2013;48(Suppl 1):S1–37.

