

Outcomes of patients who developed subsequent solid cancer after hematopoietic cell transplantation

Yoshihiro Inamoto,¹ Tomohiro Matsuda,¹ Ken Tabuchi,² Saiko Kurosawa,¹ Hideki Nakasone,³ Hisakazu Nishimori,⁴ Satoshi Yamasaki,⁵ Noriko Doki,² Koji Iwato,⁶ Takehiko Mori,⁷ Satoshi Takahashi,⁸ Hiromasa Yabe,⁹ Akio Kohno,¹⁰ Hirohisa Nakamae,¹¹ Toru Sakura,¹² Hisako Hashimoto,¹³ Junichi Sugita,¹⁴ Hiroatsu Ago,¹⁵ Takahiro Fukuda,¹ Tatsuo Ichinohe,¹⁶ Yoshiko Atsuta,¹⁷ and Takuya Yamashita,¹⁸ on behalf of the Japan Society for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Late Effects and Quality of Life Working Group

¹National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; ²Tokyo Metropolitan Cancer and Infectious Diseases Center, Komagome Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; ³Saitama Medical Center, Jichi Medical University, Saitama, Japan; ⁴Okayama University Hospital, Okayama, Japan; ⁵National Hospital Organization Kyushu Medical Center, Fukuoka, Japan; ⁶Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital & Atomic-bomb Survivors Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan; ⁷Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; ⁸The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan; ⁹Tokai University Hospital, Isehara, Japan; ¹⁰Aichi Konan Kosei Hospital, Konan, Japan; ¹¹Osaka City University, Osaka, Japan; ¹²Saiseikai Maebashi Hospital, Gunma, Japan; ¹³Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital, Kobe, Japan; ¹⁴Hokkaido University Hospital, Sapporo, Japan; ¹⁵Shimane Prefectural Central Hospital, Izumo, Japan; ¹⁶Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine, Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan; ¹⁷Japanese Data Center for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, Nagoya, Japan; and ¹⁸St. Luke's International Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

Key Points

- Subsequent solid cancers after HCT occurred at younger ages than primary cancers and accounted for most common causes of deaths.
- Subsequent solid cancers after HCT showed similar or worse survival compared with primary cancers in the general population.

To characterize the outcomes of patients who developed a particular subsequent solid cancer after hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT), age at cancer diagnosis, survival, and causes of death were compared with the respective primary cancer in the general population, using data from the national HCT registry and population-based cancer registries in Japan. Among 31 867 patients who underwent a first HCT between 1990 and 2013 and had progression-free survival at 1 year, 713 patients developed subsequent solid cancer. The median age at subsequent solid cancer diagnosis was 55 years, which was significantly younger than the 67 years for primary cancer patients in the general population ($P < .001$). The overall survival probability was 60% at 3 years after diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer and differed according to cancer type. Development of most solid cancers was associated with an increased risk of subsequent mortality after HCT. Subsequent solid cancers accounted for 76% of causes of death. Overall survival probabilities adjusted for age, sex, and year of diagnosis were lower in the HCT population than in the general population for colon, bone/soft tissue, and central nervous system cancers and did not differ statistically for other cancers. In conclusion, most subsequent solid cancers occurred at younger ages than primary cancers, emphasizing the need for cancer screening at younger ages. Subsequent solid cancers showed similar or worse survival compared with primary cancers. Biological and genetic differences between primary and subsequent solid cancers remain to be determined.

Introduction

Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) is a curative treatment of a variety of hematologic diseases. Mortality associated with HCT has declined over the past several decades.¹ As a result, the number of HCT survivors is growing,² with a current estimate of one half million worldwide, and survivors are at considerable risk for many late effects.³ Development of subsequent solid cancer is one of the most debilitating late effects after HCT and accounts for 12% to 27% of deaths among long-term survivors.⁴⁻⁶

The cumulative incidence of subsequent solid cancer has been reported to be 1% to 6% at 10 years after HCT, and it continues to rise over time without a plateau.⁷⁻¹¹ The most common sites include the oral cavity, skin, breast, and thyroid, and risks of solid cancer are elevated in the esophagus, liver, central nervous system, bone, and connective tissues in post-HCT patients compared with the general population.⁷⁻¹¹ Notably, subsequent cancers in digestive organs such as the esophagus and colon are frequent in Japanese patients.^{10,12} Myeloablative total body irradiation (TBI), young age at HCT, chronic graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), and prolonged treatment with immunosuppressive medications are well-documented risk factors for the development of subsequent solid cancer.¹¹

Although many studies have reported an increased incidence of subsequent solid cancer after HCT as well as associated risk factors, there are limited studies on the outcomes of patients who developed a specific subsequent solid cancer. One study examined the outcomes of 112 patients who developed subsequent solid cancer before 1995 after allogeneic HCT using the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) registry. The 5-year overall survival probabilities after the diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer varied by cancer type, being ~90% for thyroid, testis, and melanoma; ~50% for breast, oral cavity/pharynx, soft tissue, and female reproductive organs; and ≤20% for bone, lower gastrointestinal tract, and central nervous system.¹³ Although a formal statistical comparison was not performed, these probabilities seemed similar to those for primary cancers in the general population but were lower for female reproductive organs, bone, lower gastrointestinal tract, and central nervous system.

To characterize the outcomes of individual subsequent solid cancers after HCT in a contemporary cohort, we analyzed a large data set from the national HCT registry and population-based cancer registries in Japan. The aims of this study were to (1) elucidate overall survival rates and causes of death after the diagnosis of individual subsequent solid cancers, (2) examine the association between the development of different solid cancers and the risk of subsequent mortality after HCT, (3) examine factors associated with overall mortality, and (4) compare age at cancer diagnosis and survival between patients with subsequent cancer in the HCT population and those with primary cancer in the general population. The results of this study will provide physicians with important information for counseling and managing patients who develop subsequent solid cancers after HCT.

Patients and methods

Data source

HCT data were collected through the Transplant Registry Unified Management Program sponsored by the Japan Society for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation and the Japanese Data Center for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation.^{14,15} More than 99% of all transplant centers in Japan reported and updated outcomes every year.¹⁴ Cancer survival data in the general population were collected from the population-based cancer registries through the Monitoring of Cancer Incidence in Japan project conducted by the Japan Cancer Surveillance Research Group.¹⁶ Registries that met the following criteria were considered high quality and were used for the study: (1) the proportion of patients for whom the death certificate provided the

only notification to the registry was <25% or the proportion of patients for whom the death certificate provided the first notification to the registry was <30%, and (2) the mortality:incidence ratio was <0.67.¹⁶ The following 21 registries were included and encompassed 41% of the total Japanese population: Miyagi, Yamagata, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Kanagawa, Fukui, Yamanashi, Aichi, Shiga, Osaka, Hyogo, Hiroshima, Kochi, Nagasaki, and Okinawa.¹⁶

The study cohort included all patients who underwent a first autologous or allogeneic HCT between 1990 and 2013 and whose progression-free survival was at least 1 year after HCT. Patients with Fanconi anemia, primary immunodeficiency diseases, or Down syndrome were excluded because of their inherent susceptibility to cancer. Patients with a history of solid cancer before HCT were also excluded. For comparison with primary cancer patients in the general population, patients from the population-based cancer registries who had the same age range and cancer type were used. This study was approved by the institutional review board of the National Cancer Center and was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

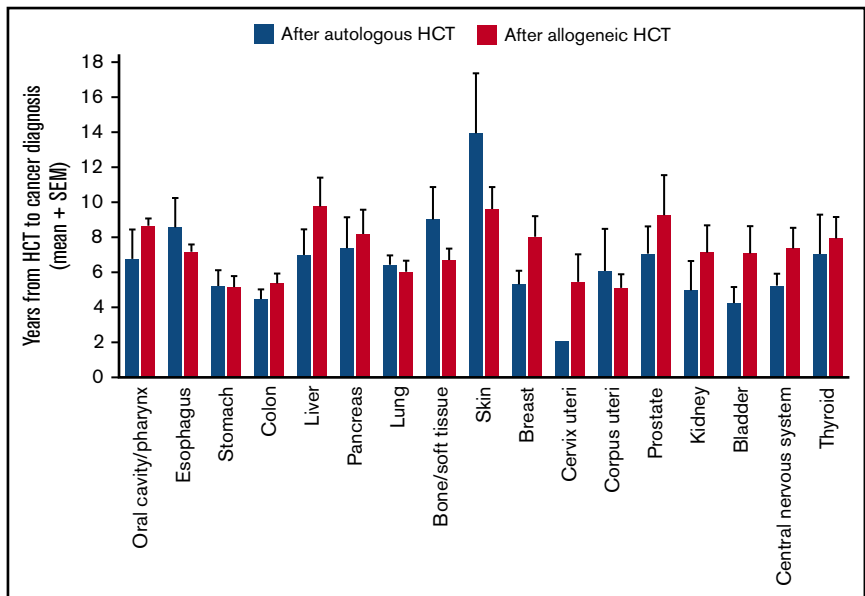
Definitions

Cancer type was classified according to International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision. HLA matching for sibling and cord blood transplantation was assessed by serological data for the HLA-A, -B, and -DR loci. HLA matching for unrelated transplantation was assessed by using allele data for the HLA-A, -B, -C, and -DRB1 loci.¹⁵ HLA mismatch was defined in the GVHD vector when recipient antigens were not shared by the donor. The intensity of conditioning regimens was defined as described previously.¹⁷

Statistical analysis

Continuous variables were compared using the Mann-Whitney *U* test. The probability of overall survival was estimated by the Kaplan-Meier method from the diagnosis of solid cancer to death or last follow-up. Separate Cox models were used for autologous and allogeneic HCT to examine risk factors associated with overall mortality after the diagnosis of solid cancer. Factors with *P* < .05 in univariable testing were entered in a multivariable model. A backward stepwise procedure was used to develop a final model. A 2-sided *P* < .05 was considered statistically significant. Covariates included patient age at diagnosis of solid cancer, duration from HCT to diagnosis of solid cancer, patient sex, type of solid cancer, year of solid cancer diagnosis, primary disease requiring HCT, prior history of HCT, graft source, and the use of TBI in conditioning regimen. Donor relation, HLA matching, conditioning intensity, and a history of chronic GVHD were also included as covariates for patients who had allogeneic HCT. The proportional hazards assumption was tested for all variables considered in multivariable analysis, and no violations occurred. The 3-year survival was compared between the HCT and general population after adjustment for patient sex, patient age at cancer diagnosis, year of cancer diagnosis, and cancer type. The standardized mortality ratio (SMR) was calculated as the ratio of observed deaths to expected deaths in the age- and sex-matched general population of primary cancer, and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were obtained using a Poisson regression model.¹⁸ All statistical analyses were performed using STATA version 12.1 (StataCorp, College Station, TX).

Figure 1. Duration from HCT to solid cancer diagnosis according to cancer type. Data are mean + standard error of the mean (SEM).



Results

Patient characteristics

Among 31 867 patients (10 678 autologous HCT and 21 189 allogeneic HCT) who underwent a first HCT and had progression-free survival at 1 year after HCT, 713 progression-free patients (2%) developed subsequent solid cancer. Solid cancer occurred after autologous HCT in 217 patients (30%) and after allogeneic HCT in 496 patients (70%). The median patient age at diagnosis of solid cancer was 55 years (range, 5-82 years). The median duration from HCT to solid cancer diagnosis was 5.9 years (range, 1.0-25 years). The duration from HCT to solid cancer diagnosis according to cancer type is shown in Figure 1. Four hundred forty-nine patients (63%) were male and 264 (37%) were female. The most frequent cancer was oropharyngeal cancer (n = 117), followed by cancers of the esophagus (n = 83), lung (n = 81), colon (n = 79), and stomach (n = 48). The most frequent primary disease was malignant lymphoma (n = 227), followed by acute myeloid leukemia (n = 171) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (n = 101). Other characteristics are summarized in Table 1. When characteristics were compared between autologous and allogeneic HCT, patients after allogeneic HCT were younger at cancer diagnosis, had a longer duration from HCT to cancer diagnosis, more frequently had oropharyngeal or esophageal cancer, less frequently had colon or lung cancer, less frequently had prior HCT, more frequently had bone marrow transplantation using TBI-containing conditioning regimens for leukemia or myeloid neoplasms, and less frequently had lymphoma or plasma cell neoplasms.

Survival and causes of death after diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer

With a median follow-up duration of 2.6 years among survivors, the unadjusted overall survival probabilities at 3 years after the diagnosis of solid cancer were 60% (95% CI, 52% to 67%) for

autologous HCT and 61% (95% CI, 56% to 66%) for allogeneic HCT and did not differ statistically between the two HCT types ($P = .35$; Figure 2). Multivariable Cox models for autologous HCT showed that female patients were associated with a lower risk of overall mortality (hazard ratio [HR], 0.59; 95% CI, 0.36-0.97; $P = .039$), and solid cancer diagnosis before 2000 was associated with a higher risk of overall mortality (HR, 2.45; 95% CI, 1.14-5.26; $P = .022$) (Table 2). Multivariable Cox models for allogeneic HCT showed 2 factors associated with overall mortality (Table 2). A longer duration from HCT to diagnosis of solid cancer was associated with a lower risk of overall mortality (HR, 0.94; 95% CI, 0.91-0.98; $P = .005$). Compared with oropharyngeal cancer, cancers of the esophagus, pancreas, lung, and central nervous system were associated with higher risks of overall mortality, while thyroid cancer was associated with a lower risk of overall mortality. Age at diagnosis of solid cancer, primary disease, graft source, the use of TBI in conditioning regimen, donor relation, HLA matching, conditioning intensity, and a history of chronic GVHD were not statistically associated with the risk of overall mortality.

Regarding causes of death, subsequent solid cancer accounted for 73% of causes of death in patients who had autologous HCT and 76% of causes of death in those who had allogeneic HCT (Figure 3). Analysis in individual cancers showed that subsequent solid cancer was the most common cause of death, except for cancers of the esophagus, breast, and bladder after autologous HCT (Figure 3A), and except for liver and breast cancers after allogeneic HCT (Figure 3B).

Association of subsequent solid cancer development with risk of subsequent overall mortality in HCT patients

Time-varying Cox models were used to examine the association of solid cancer development with risk of subsequent overall mortality in the 31 867 patients with 1-year progression-free survival. Results are shown with unadjusted models and

Table 1. Characteristics of patients at diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer

Characteristic	Total (N = 713), no. (%)	Autologous (N = 217), no. (%)	Allogeneic (N = 496), no. (%)	P*
Median age at diagnosis of solid cancer (range), y	55 (5-82)	62 (10-82)	52 (5-76)	<.001
Median duration from HCT to diagnosis of solid cancer (range), y	5.9 (1.0-25)	4.9 (1.0-20)	6.3 (1.0-25)	<.001
Patient sex				.37
Male	449 (63)	142 (65)	307 (62)	
Female	264 (37)	75 (35)	189 (38)	
Cancer type (ICD-10 code)				<.001
Oral cavity/pharynx (C00-C14)	117 (16)	8 (4)	109 (22)	
Esophagus (C15)	83 (12)	7 (3)	76 (15)	
Stomach (C16)	48 (7)	20 (9)	28 (6)	
Colon (C18-C20)	79 (11)	36 (17)	43 (9)	
Liver (C22)	20 (3)	14 (6)	6 (1)	
Pancreas (C25)	25 (4)	10 (5)	15 (3)	
Lung (C33-C34)	81 (11)	38 (18)	43 (9)	
Bone/soft tissue† (C40-C41)	31 (4)	9 (4)	22 (4)	
Skin (C43-C44)	28 (4)	4 (2)	24 (5)	
Breast (C50)	38 (5)	14 (6)	24 (5)	
Cervix uteri (C53)	9 (1)	1 (<1)	8 (2)	
Corpus uteri (C54)	13 (2)	4 (2)	9 (2)	
Prostate (C61)	22 (3)	12 (6)	10 (2)	
Kidney (C64-C65)	15 (2)	10 (5)	5 (1)	
Bladder (C67)	19 (3)	7 (3)	12 (2)	
Central nervous system (C71-72)	16 (2)	2 (1)	14 (3)	
Thyroid (C73)	28 (4)	6 (3)	22 (4)	
Other‡	41 (6)	15 (7)	26 (5)	
Year of diagnosis of solid cancer				.12
1993-1999	18 (3)	9 (4)	9 (2)	
2000-2004	88 (12)	31 (14)	57 (11)	
2005-2009	203 (28)	52 (24)	151 (30)	
2010-2015	404 (57)	125 (58)	279 (56)	
Primary disease				<.001
Acute myeloid leukemia	171 (24)	20 (9)	151 (30)	
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia	101 (14)	7 (3)	94 (19)	
Myelodysplastic syndrome/myeloproliferative neoplasms	77 (11)	1 (<1)	76 (15)	
Chronic myelogenous leukemia	60 (8)	0 (0)	60 (12)	
Malignant lymphoma	227 (32)	160 (74)	67 (14)	
Plasma cell neoplasms	34 (5)	29 (13)	5 (1)	
Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma	20 (3)	0 (0)	20 (4)	
Aplastic anemia	21 (3)	0 (0)	21 (4)	
Other	2 (<1)	0 (0)	2 (<1)	
Prior history of HCT	27 (4)	13 (6)	14 (3)	.04
Graft source				<.001
Bone marrow	352 (49)	12 (6)	340 (69)	
Mobilized blood cells	313 (44)	205 (94)	108 (22)	
Cord blood	48 (7)	0 (0)	48 (10)	

ICD-10, International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision.

*P values for autologous vs allogeneic HCT.

†Includes soft tissue cancers defined as ICD-O3 880-892, 912, and 918-926.

‡Nine patients had bile duct cancer, 8 cancer of unknown origin, 6 malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor, 6 duodenum cancer, 4 ovarian cancer, 3 parotid gland cancer, 3 ureter cancer, 1 laryngeal cancer, and 1 submandibular gland cancer.

Table 1. (continued)

Characteristic	Total (N = 713), no. (%)	Autologous (N = 217), no. (%)	Allogeneic (N = 496), no. (%)	P*
TBI in conditioning regimen	324 (45)	21 (10)	303 (61)	<.001
Donor relation				
Related			271 (55)	
Unrelated			225 (45)	
HLA matching				
Match			299 (60)	
Mismatch			143 (29)	
Unknown			54 (11)	
Conditioning intensity				
Myeloablative			245 (49)	
Reduced intensity			146 (29)	
Unknown intensity			105 (21)	
Chronic GVHD				
None			410 (58)	
Limited			110 (15)	
Extensive			193 (27)	

ICD-10, International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision.

*P values for autologous vs allogeneic HCT.

†Includes soft tissue cancers defined as ICD-O3 880-892, 912, and 918-926.

‡Nine patients had bile duct cancer, 8 cancer of unknown origin, 6 malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor, 6 duodenum cancer, 4 ovarian cancer, 3 parotid gland cancer, 3 ureter cancer, 1 laryngeal cancer, and 1 submandibular gland cancer.

with models adjusted for factors associated with the risk of subsequent solid cancer development in prior studies (ie, patient age at HCT, prior chronic GVHD, and the use of TBI in conditioning regimen).¹⁰ Development of any solid cancer was associated with an increased risk of subsequent overall mortality after autologous HCT (adjusted HR, 3.81; 95% CI, 3.05-4.75; $P < .001$) and after allogeneic HCT (adjusted HR, 5.63; 95%

CI, 4.81-6.59; $P < .001$). Analyses for individual cancers are shown in Figure 4. Compared with patients who did not develop subsequent solid cancer, those who developed solid cancer had an increased risk of subsequent overall mortality, except for those with cancers of the oral cavity/pharynx, central nervous system, breast, thyroid, bladder, and kidney after autologous HCT and except for those with cancers of the

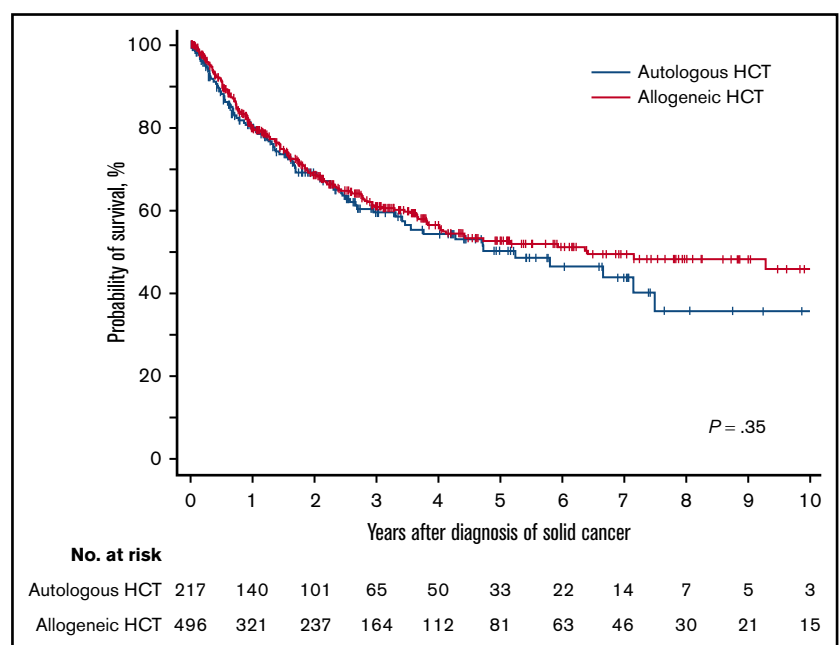


Figure 2. Probability of overall survival after diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer according to HCT type.

Table 2. Multivariable analysis for factors associated with overall mortality after diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer

Factor	Autologous (N = 217)			Allogeneic (N = 496)		
	No.	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P	No.	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P
Patient sex						
Male	142	1.00 (reference)				
Female	75	0.59 (0.36-0.97)	.039			
Year of diagnosis of solid cancer						
1993-1999	9	2.45 (1.14-5.26)	.022			
2000-2004	31	0.79 (0.42-1.49)	.47			
2005-2009	52	0.80 (0.46-1.39)	.44			
2010-2015	125	1.00 (reference)				
Duration from transplantation to cancer diagnosis (per year)				496	0.94 (0.91-0.98)	.005
Cancer type						
Oral cavity/pharynx				109	1.00 (reference)	
Esophagus				76	2.43 (1.52-3.90)	<.001
Stomach				28	1.06 (0.48-2.34)	.89
Colon				43	1.35 (0.74-2.45)	.32
Liver				6	3.01 (0.92-9.90)	.069
Pancreas				15	6.78 (3.29-14.0)	<.001
Lung				43	2.54 (1.45-4.46)	.001
Bone/soft tissue				22	1.82 (0.91-3.65)	.093
Skin				24	0.69 (0.27-1.78)	.44
Breast				24	0.14 (0.02-1.05)	.056
Cervix uteri				8	0.84 (0.20-3.55)	.82
Corpus uteri				9	0.43 (0.06-3.13)	.40
Prostate				10	0.69 (0.16-2.89)	.61
Kidney				5	0.92 (0.12-6.71)	.93
Bladder				12	0.63 (0.15-2.63)	.52
Central nervous system				14	4.12 (2.01-8.45)	<.001
Thyroid				22	0.12 (0.02-0.87)	.036
Others				26	2.21 (1.13-4.33)	.021

kidney, uterus, prostate, bladder, thyroid, and breast after allogeneic HCT.

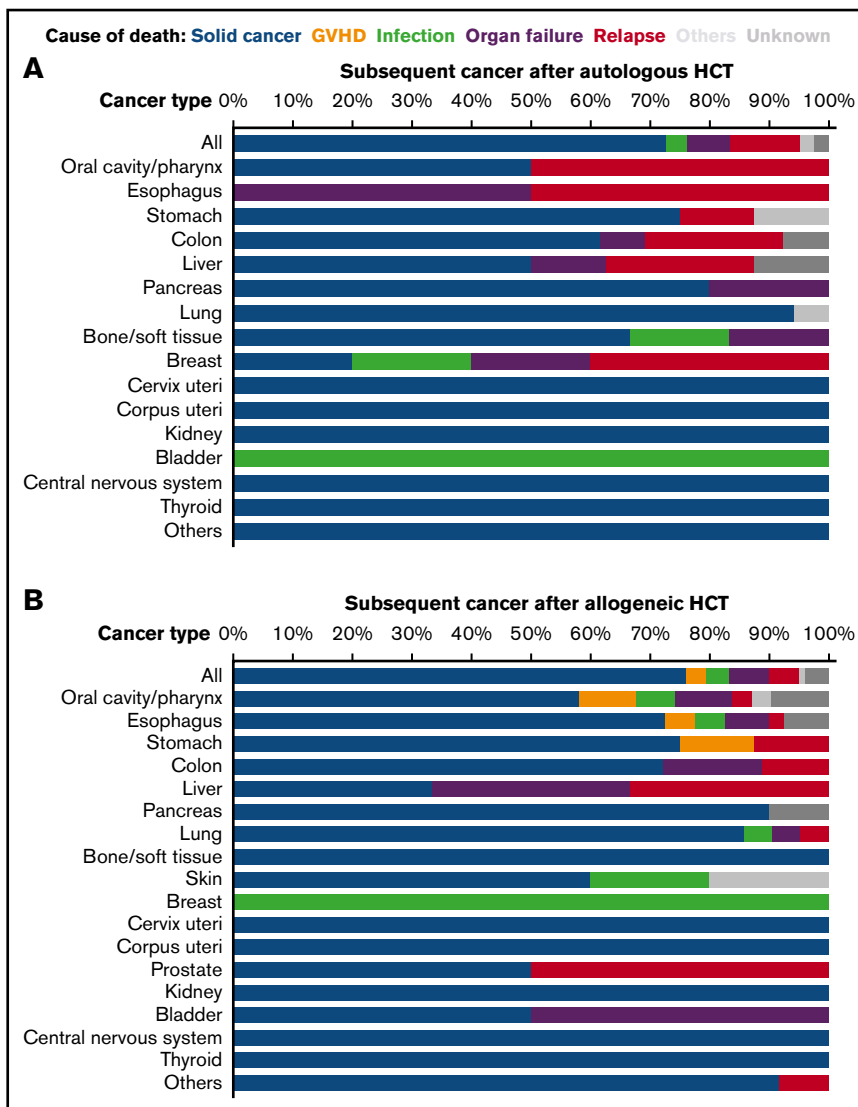
Comparison of age at diagnosis among patients with primary vs subsequent solid cancer

The ages at diagnosis of cancers were compared between patients with subsequent solid cancer after HCT and those with primary cancer in the general population with the same age range and cancer type by using data from the population-based cancer registries (Table 3). The median age at diagnosis of all solid cancers combined was significantly younger in the HCT population than in the general population (62 vs 67 years after autologous HCT, *P* < .001; 52 vs 67 years after allogeneic HCT, *P* < .001). This observation held true for lung and bladder cancers after autologous HCT and for cancers except for breast, uterus, prostate, and bladder after allogeneic HCT. The age at cancer diagnosis was younger after allogeneic HCT than after autologous HCT for cancers of the oral cavity/pharynx, esophagus, colon, liver, lung, skin, and thyroid.

Comparison of adjusted survival probabilities between patients with primary vs subsequent solid cancer

Overall survival probabilities adjusted for age, sex, and year of diagnosis were compared between patients with subsequent solid cancer after HCT and those with primary cancer in the general population, using the same data from the population-based cancer registries (Table 4). The adjusted overall survival probability was lower in the HCT population than in the general population in all cancers combined after allogeneic HCT (60% vs 72% at 3 years; HR, 1.41; 95% CI, 1.20-1.65; *P* < .001). Results for individual cancers are shown in Table 4 and Figure 5. The adjusted overall survival probabilities were lower in the HCT population than in the general population for bone/soft tissue cancer after autologous HCT (21% vs 67% at 3 years; HR, 2.93; 95% CI, 1.21-7.07; *P* = .017); and for colon cancer (54% vs 75% at 3 years; HR, 2.14; 95% CI, 1.27-3.62; *P* = .004), bone/soft tissue cancer (24% vs 67% at 3 years; HR, 3.16; 95% CI, 1.68-5.93; *P* < .001), and central

Figure 3. Causes of death among patients who developed subsequent solid cancer after HCT. (A) Autologous HCT. Skin and prostate cancers are excluded because no death occurred with these cancers. (B) Allogeneic HCT.



nervous system cancer after allogeneic HCT (1% vs 27% at 3 years; HR, 4.54; 95% CI, 2.29-9.01; $P < .001$). The adjusted overall survival probabilities did not differ statistically between primary and subsequent solid cancers for other cancers.

Compared with the age- and sex-matched general population of primary cancers (Table 5), SMRs of subsequent solid cancers were elevated after both autologous and allogeneic HCT in all cancers combined (1.79; 95% CI, 1.43-2.21; $P < .001$; 1.66; 95% CI, 1.43-1.93; $P < .001$, respectively), colon cancer (2.20; 95% CI, 1.17-3.77; $P = .02$; 2.12; 95% CI, 1.26-3.35; $P = .007$, respectively), and bone/soft tissue cancer (3.16; 95% CI, 1.16-6.87; $P = .03$; and 2.97; 95% CI, 1.48-5.32; $P = .003$, respectively). The SMR after autologous HCT was elevated for breast cancer (5.00; 95% CI, 1.62-11.7; $P = .01$).

Discussion

This registry study elucidated different overall survival probabilities according to types of subsequent solid cancers after HCT. Importantly, development of most solid cancers was associated with an increased risk of subsequent mortality, and solid cancer was

the most common cause of death, with few exceptions. This study also demonstrated that many subsequent solid cancers after HCT occurred at younger ages and were associated with comparable or worse survival compared with the same type of primary cancers in the general population, emphasizing the need for cancer screening at younger ages in HCT survivors.

It was shown that subsequent cancers of the skin and colon that developed after organ transplantation occurred at a younger age than primary cancer in the general population.¹⁹⁻²¹ A plausible explanation for the early carcinogenesis after organ transplantation is that immunosuppressive conditions can impair the cancer surveillance mechanism.²² Immunosuppressive conditions may also increase the risk of viral reactivation and virus-related malignancies.²³ Chronic mucosal inflammation caused by chronic GVHD may increase the risk of carcinogenesis after allogeneic HCT. In fact, cancer development at a younger age was particularly evident after allogeneic HCT. Thus, cumulative chemotherapy-induced DNA damage, prolonged immunosuppressive conditions, and chronic mucosal inflammation, particularly after allogeneic HCT, could account for the younger age of cancer development after HCT.

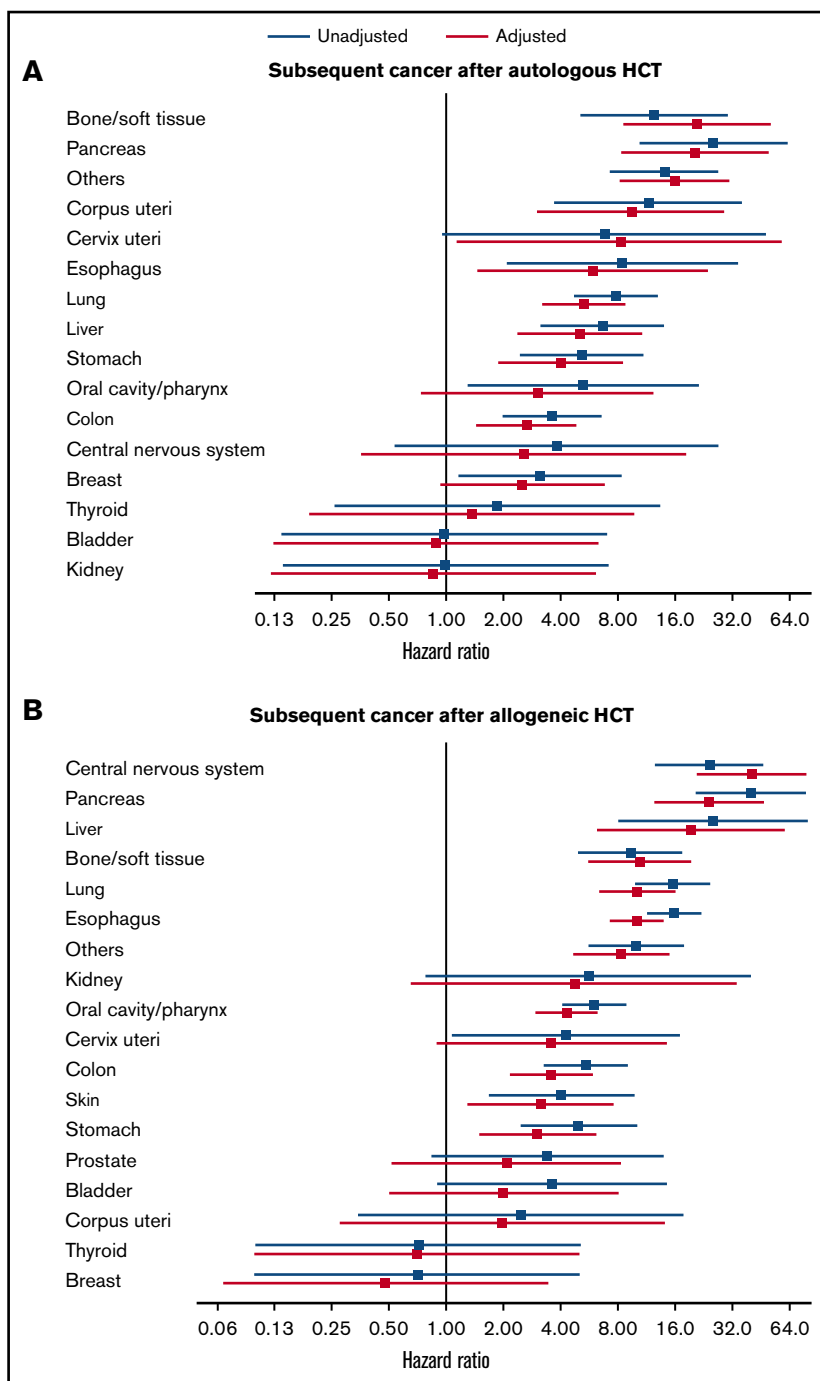


Figure 4. Association of individual solid cancer development with risk of subsequent overall mortality. Diagnosis of individual solid cancer was treated as time-varying mutually exclusive events. Patients who did not develop subsequent solid cancer were used as reference. Hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals are shown with forest plots in unadjusted (blue) and adjusted (red) models. (A) Autologous HCT. Adjusted factors include patient age at transplantation and the use of TBI. Skin and prostate cancers are excluded because no deaths occurred with these cancers. (B) Allogeneic HCT. Adjusted factors include patient age at transplantation, prior chronic GVHD, and the use of TBI.

Previous studies have reported 3-year overall survival probabilities of 50% to 60% after diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer,^{13,24,25} and the probability was similar in this study. In analyses of individual cancers, adjusted overall survival probabilities were favorable for thyroid, breast, prostate, and skin cancers, whereas they were poor for bone/soft tissue, central nervous system, and pancreatic cancers. These results were consistent with those reported in the study of the CIBMTR registry.¹³

Adjusted overall survival probabilities were lower in patients with subsequent cancer compared with those with primary cancer in the general population for colon, central nervous system, and bone/soft

tissue cancers after allogeneic HCT. The CIBMTR registry study also reported worse survival probabilities in subsequent cancers of the lower gastrointestinal tract, central nervous system, and bones and joints after allogeneic HCT.¹³ Although these results require careful interpretation because of the lack of information on cancer stage at diagnosis and treatment details in both registries, similarities between the 2 independent registry studies might indicate the presence of biological differences between primary and subsequent cancers. A recent population-based study showed that subsequent cancers of the breast, thyroid, soft tissues, colon, central nervous system, and cervix were associated with worse

Table 3. Comparison of age at diagnosis between primary cancer in the general population and subsequent solid cancer after HCT

Cancer type	No.		Median age at diagnosis (range)				P			
	General	Autologous	Allogeneic	General		Allogeneic		Autologous vs general	Allogeneic vs general	Autologous vs allogeneic
				General	Autologous	Allogeneic	Autologous vs general			
All	541 134	217	496	67 (5-82)	62 (10-82)	52 (5-76)	<.001	<.001	<.001	
Oral cavity/pharynx	7 904	8	109	61 (17-71)	62 (55-71)	49 (17-68)	.50	<.001	<.001	
Esophagus	13 804	7	76	65 (25-76)	63 (56-71)	57 (24-76)	.35	<.001	.03	
Stomach	82 076	20	28	66 (19-77)	62 (34-77)	57 (18-71)	.055	<.001	.09	
Colon	72 270	36	43	65 (17-75)	62 (34-75)	57 (17-71)	.08	<.001	.02	
Liver	32 078	14	6	70 (14-82)	67 (31-82)	43 (12-61)	.06	<.001	.011	
Pancreas	11 329	10	15	64 (29-72)	66 (46-72)	59 (29-69)	.51	.01	.08	
Lung	63 833	38	43	69 (22-80)	65 (46-80)	59 (22-71)	.014	<.001	<.001	
Bone/soft tissue	2 404	9	22	48 (9-63)	41 (10-62)	18 (9-63)	.10	<.001	.08	
Skin	5 582	4	24	65 (20-75)	67 (36-75)	45 (20-64)	.85	<.001	.045	
Breast	50 155	14	24	55 (29-71)	57 (29-67)	52 (31-71)	.44	.32	.19	
Cervix uteri	6 459	1	8	44 (28-60)	51 (NA)	43 (28-60)	.49	.66	.44	
Corpus uteri	7 298	4	9	56 (32-66)	56 (52-66)	54 (32-64)	.52	.73	.40	
Prostate	18 481	12	10	65 (53-69)	63 (54-69)	63 (53-68)	.52	.18	.55	
Kidney	9 051	10	5	60 (13-72)	57 (42-72)	51 (10-68)	.43	.039	.14	
Bladder	6 959	7	12	62 (30-69)	54 (33-66)	62 (30-69)	.015	.65	.25	
Central nervous system	750	2	14	43 (7-57)	36 (14-57)	13 (7-28)	.99	<.001	.20	
Thyroid	9 507	6	22	57 (8-75)	61 (20-68)	24 (7-75)	.76	<.001	.009	

General refers to general population.

Table 4. Comparison of adjusted overall survival probabilities with primary cancer patients in the general population

Cancer type	No.			3-y adjusted overall survival*			Autologous vs general		Allogeneic vs general	
	General	Autologous	Allogeneic	General	Autologous	Allogeneic	HR* (95% CI)	P	HR* (95% CI)	P
All	541 134	217	496	0.72	0.65	0.60	1.21 (0.96-1.53)	.11	1.41 (1.20-1.65)	<.001
Oral cavity/pharynx	7 904	8	109	0.65	0.85	0.62	0.55 (0.08-3.93)	.56	0.99 (0.65-1.49)	.95
Esophagus	13 804	7	76	0.42	0.47	0.34	0.61 (0.15-2.44)	.48	1.15 (0.83-1.60)	.40
Stomach	82 076	20	28	0.66	0.54	0.57	1.61 (0.76-3.37)	.21	1.37 (0.65-2.87)	.41
Colon	72 270	36	43	0.75	0.63	0.54	1.57 (0.85-2.92)	.15	2.14 (1.27-3.62)	.004
Liver	32 078	14	6	0.45	0.47	0.44	0.95 (0.43-2.12)	.91	1.32 (0.42-4.10)	.63
Pancreas	11 329	10	15	0.12	0.20	0.07	0.81 (0.34-1.95)	.64	1.24 (0.67-2.31)	.49
Lung	63 833	38	43	0.38	0.42	0.28	0.88 (0.55-1.42)	.60	1.12 (0.73-1.72)	.61
Bone/soft tissue	2 404	9	22	0.67	0.21	0.24	2.93 (1.21-7.07)	.017	3.16 (1.68-5.93)	<.001
Skin	5 582	4	24	0.88	NA	0.92	NA	NA	0.60 (0.08-4.27)	.61
Breast	50 155	14	24	0.93	0.91	0.90	1.35 (0.19-9.57)	.77	0.99 (0.14-7.07)	1.0
Cervix uteri	6 459	1	8	0.81	NA	0.61	NA	NA	2.71 (0.67-10.9)	.16
Corpus uteri	7 298	4	9	0.87	NA	0.86	NA	NA	1.59 (0.22-11.5)	.65
Prostate	18 481	12	10	0.91	1.00	0.81	NA	NA	3.26 (0.46-23.2)	.24
Kidney	9 051	10	5	0.76	0.83	0.22	0.63 (0.09-4.51)	.65	2.27 (0.32-16.1)	.41
Bladder	6 959	7	12	0.78	1.00	0.72	NA	NA	0.74 (0.10-5.27)	.76
Central nervous system	750	2	14	0.27	NA	0.01	NA	NA	4.54 (2.29-9.01)	<.001
Thyroid	9 507	6	22	0.97	0.94	0.84	2.01 (0.27-14.8)	.49	4.47 (0.63-31.9)	.14

NA, not applicable.

*Adjusted for patient sex, patient age at cancer diagnosis, year of cancer diagnosis, and cancer type. Hazard ratios and *P* values were derived from multivariable Cox models.

survival than primary cancers.²⁶ Many subsequent cancers that occurred after organ transplantation were characterized by aggressive behavior.²⁷ Several studies showed that subsequent colorectal cancer after organ transplantation had a more aggressive phenotype and worse prognosis compared with primary cancer in the general population, possibly because of immunosuppression.^{19,20,28} Several

population-based studies also showed that cancer histology differed between subsequent and primary cancer, and that the risk of death was higher with subsequent cancer despite increased surveillance, screening, and access to care among previous cancer patients.^{29,30} Additional studies are necessary to elucidate biological and genetic differences between primary cancers and subsequent cancers after HCT.

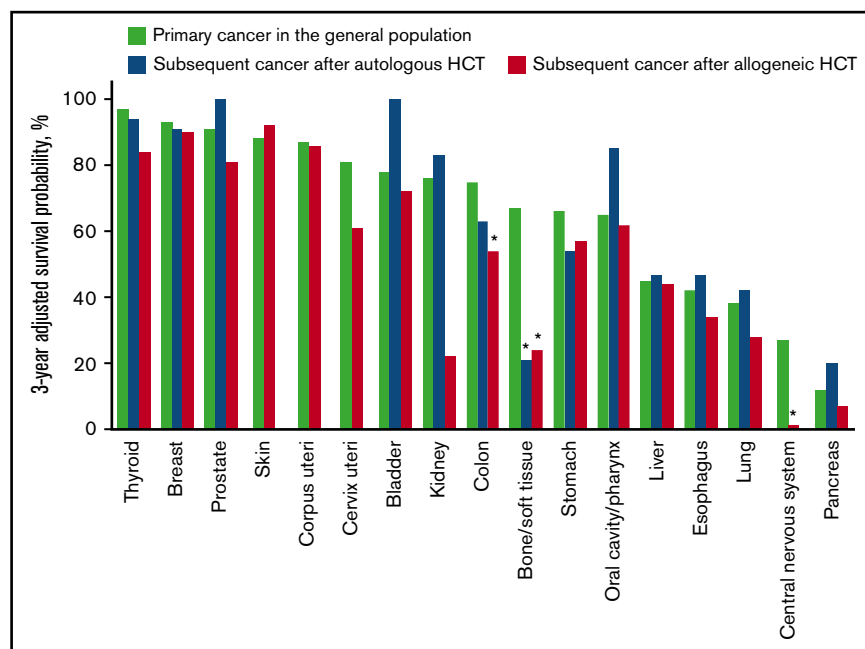


Figure 5. Age-, sex-, and year of diagnosis–adjusted overall survival probability at 3 years after diagnosis of subsequent solid cancer in the HCT population and primary cancer in the general population. Cancers in the skin, uterus, and central nervous system after autologous HCT are excluded because of the small number of patients. **P* < .05.

Table 5. Expected and observed deaths according to cancer type

Cancer type	Autologous				Allogeneic			
	Expected*	Observed	SMR (95% CI)	P	Expected*	Observed	SMR (95% CI)	P
All	47.0	84	1.79 (1.43-2.21)	<.001	107.6	179	1.66 (1.43-1.93)	<.001
Oral cavity/pharynx	2.3	2	0.87 (0.11-3.14)	1.0	24.7	31	1.26 (0.85-1.78)	.25
Esophagus	1.8	2	1.11 (0.13-4.01)	1.0	38.8	40	1.03 (0.74-1.40)	.89
Stomach	3.6	8	2.22 (0.96-4.38)	.16	5.7	8	1.40 (0.61-2.77)	.43
Colon	5.9	13	2.20 (1.17-3.77)	.02	8.5	18	2.12 (1.26-3.35)	.007
Liver	7.1	8	1.13 (0.49-2.22)	.83	3.4	3	0.88 (0.18-2.58)	1.0
Pancreas	5.0	5	1.00 (0.32-2.33)	1.0	9.8	10	1.02 (0.49-1.88)	1.0
Lung	18.7	17	0.91 (0.53-1.46)	.81	18.8	21	1.12 (0.69-1.71)	.67
Bone/soft tissue	1.9	6	3.16 (1.16-6.87)	.03	3.7	11	2.97 (1.48-5.32)	.003
Skin	NA	0	NA	NA	2.7	5	1.85 (0.60-4.32)	.27
Breast	1.0	5	5.00 (1.62-11.7)	.01	1.5	1	0.67 (0.02-3.71)	1.0
Cervix uteri	NA	1	NA	NA	0.7	2	2.86 (0.35-10.3)	.31
Corpus uteri	NA	3	NA	NA	0.6	1	1.67 (0.04-9.29)	1.0
Prostate	0.6	0	NA	NA	0.6	2	3.33 (0.40-12.0)	.24
Kidney	1.5	1	0.67 (0.02-3.71)	1.0	0.5	1	2.00 (0.05-11.1)	.79
Bladder	1.2	1	0.83 (0.02-4.64)	1.0	1.2	2	1.67 (0.20-6.02)	.68
Central nervous system	NA	1	NA	NA	7.1	10	1.41 (0.68-2.59)	.35
Thyroid	0.2	1	5.00 (0.13-27.9)	.36	0.4	1	2.50 (0.06-13.9)	.66

*Expected number of deaths in the age- and sex-matched general population of primary cancer.

Multivariable analysis showed that female patients and cancer diagnosis before 2000 were associated with overall mortality after autologous HCT, and a longer duration from HCT to diagnosis of solid cancer was associated with a lower risk of overall mortality after allogeneic HCT. Patient age at diagnosis of solid cancer, type of HCT, primary disease, conditioning intensity, and the use of TBI in conditioning regimen were not statistically associated with the risk of overall mortality. Female cancer patients showed higher survival probabilities than male cancer patients in the study of population-based cancer registries.¹⁶ Because patients are likely to recover physically and because mortality rates decrease with time after HCT, it would not be surprising if later development of solid cancer were associated with lower mortality. The CIBMTR study, however, did not show a decrease in mortality associated with longer duration between HCT and subsequent cancer diagnosis after allogeneic HCT.¹³

This study had several strengths and limitations. We used a national HCT registry and population-based cancer databases in Japan, and thus the results could be generalized to all HCT survivors nationwide. Conversely, the major drawback of the current HCT registry database was the lack of information on subsequent cancer stage at diagnosis, treatment details, health behaviors, or cytogenetic features. Collection of these details is warranted in future studies to determine whether adverse outcomes were related to advanced stage as a result of late diagnosis, intolerability to standard treatment, aggressive behaviors, or combinations of these factors. Finally, the results for some cancers were based on a small number of cases and should be interpreted with caution.

This registry study clearly showed that subsequent solid cancer was associated with an increased risk of mortality and accounted for the

major cause of death in most cancers. Outcomes differed largely according to cancer type. These results should prove useful when counseling and managing patients who develop subsequent solid cancers after HCT. Because many of these cancers occurred at a younger age than primary cancers in the general population, our results highlight the importance of cancer screening at younger ages among HCT survivors and will help to make evidence-based prevention and screening guidelines for HCT survivors. Additional studies are warranted to characterize the biological and genetic differences of subsequent solid cancers after HCT.

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Authorship

Contribution: Y.I. designed the study; T. Matsuda, N.D., K.I., T. Mori, S.T., H.Y., A.K., H. Nakamae, T.S., H.H., J.S., H.A., and T.F. collected data; K.T., S.K., H. Nakasone, H. Nishimori, S.Y., T.I., and T.Y. wrote the manuscript; Y.I., and Y.A. performed the statistical analysis; and all authors interpreted data, critically revised the manuscript for important intellectual content, and approved the final manuscript.

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A complete list of the members of the Japan Society for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Late Effects and Quality of Life Working Group appears in "Appendix."

Correspondence: Yoshihiro Inamoto, Department of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, National Cancer Center Hospital, 5-1-1 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0045, Japan; e-mail: yinamoto@ncc.go.jp.

Appendix: study group members

The members of the Japan Society for Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Late Effects and Quality of Life Working Group

are: Y.I., Y.A., Minako Iida, Takayuki Ishikawa, Keiichi Isoyama, Masami Inoue, Kumi Oshima, Shinichiro Okamoto, S.K., A.K., Rika Sakai, Masaaki Shiohara, Shuichi Taniguchi, K.T., H. Nakasone, Makoto Hirokawa, Shin Fujisawa, Yasuo Horikoshi, Masato Masuda, Hidetsugu Mihara, Yuki Asano-Mori, T.Y., Yasushi Ishida, Aika Seto, Nahoko Hatsumi, Akira Hayakawa, Atsushi Sato, H. Nishimori, Masako Toyosaki, S.Y., Koichi Miyamura, Chikako Kiyotani, Raine Tataru, Toshihiro Matsukawa, and Satoshi Yoshioka.

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