Information on Bone Marrow Test Drive and Donating Financially

Greatest likelihood of a match
- those between 18 and 60 years old
- combined Hispanic/Caucasian background
- any blood type is worth testing as any person has a chance of being a match
- to register

Friday, September 30
- friends of Isaac (CURE, parish groups, schools) have organized a ‘Bone Marrow Test Drive’
- held at Marist School, 12pm to 8pm, in the Centennial Center
- testing involves a simple cheek swab and should take about 20 minutes.
- it is imperative that as many people as possible come and be tested
- to register

Volunteers
- many hands will be needed, if you can volunteer for a one-hour or two-hour shift, please contact Lynne Bauman at L.Bauman@syntapharma.com

Tests Costs/Financial Donations
- Kashi Lab has lowered cost of test kit to $115 per person
- through sponsorships, 260 free kits are available now with highest priority going to those of mixed Hispanic/Caucasian background
- individuals wishing to financially donate for those who do not have the funds for a test kit, can contact BT parent David Appert (a childhood cancer dad) at dappert@THDAtHomeServices.com
- donations can also go through CURE Childhood Cancer's donate link and put "Isaac" in the comments section

FAQs - The following are some FAQ's regarding bone marrow testing and bone marrow transplants. If you still have questions, please email them to Lynne Bauman at L.Bauman@syntapharma.com or Kristin Connor at kristin@curechildhoodcancer.org. Please do not call Kashi Labs.

1. What if I'm already on the registry? Should I be tested again Friday?
No. If you are on the registry, we already know you are not a match for Isaac and there is no need to be re-tested.

2. What if I can't come Friday or am already on the registry? How can I help Isaac?
Because of the cost involved in expedited testing ($115 per person), we are trying to raise money to cover the cost of the kits so cost does not prevent anyone willing from being tested. The more people tested, particularly those fitting the profile of 18-60, Caucasian/Hispanic mix, the greater the chance a match will be found. You can contribute
to this effort by visiting CURE Childhood Cancer's [donate](#) link and put "Isaac" in the comments section

3. **If I contribute to Isaac’s fund through CURE, how will the money be used?**
   100% of all donations to Isaac’s fund will be used to cover the cost of bone marrow testing. In the event funds donated are not exhausted by the bone marrow testing, excess funds will be used to cover cancer related costs incurred by the family, or, if the family chooses, they will be donated to CURE to further our mission of curing childhood cancer through research.

4. **Are there medical conditions which might make someone ineligible to be a donor?**
   Yes. There are many factors that may make a person medically ineligible to donate. For guidance, please visit [http://www.marrow.org/Join/Medical_Guidelines/Medical_Guidelines_for_Joining_the_Registry.aspx](http://www.marrow.org/Join/Medical_Guidelines/Medical_Guidelines_for_Joining_the_Registry.aspx).

5. **How is a bone marrow match determined?**
   Doctors look for a donor who matches their patient’s tissue type, specifically their human leukocyte antigen (HLA) tissue type. HLAs are proteins — or markers — found on most cells in your body. Your immune system uses these markers to recognize which cells belong in your body and which do not. The closer the match between the patient’s HLA markers and yours, the better for the patient.
   Source: [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org)

6. **What happens if I am identified as a potential match?**
   More testing will be done to see if you are the best possible match for the patient. Additionally, an information session will be scheduled so you can learn more about the donation process, risks and side effects.

7. **If I am tested Friday, will I be added to the National Bone Marrow Registry?**
   No. This testing is being done by a private lab specifically for Isaac. If you wish to join the National Bone Marrow Registry, you will need to contact the Be the Match Foundation, [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org).

You will find helpful information about becoming a bone marrow donor at this website: [http://www.marrow.org/Registry_Members/Donation/Donation_FAQs.aspx#happens](http://www.marrow.org/Registry_Members/Donation/Donation_FAQs.aspx#happens)

Please continue to keep the del Valle family in your prayers. This is an awful situation no parent wants to find themselves in. With your prayers and commitment to help Isaac a true miracle can happen.