

Cancer Treatment and Research

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Advances in Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

edited by

Richard K. Burt

Mary M. Brush

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The field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is rapidly evolving. Realization that hematopoietic stem cells give rise to the immune compartment has resulted in clinical trials of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for patients with autoimmune diseases. Allogeneic hematopoietic transplants are a form of adoptive immunotherapy resulting in beneficial graft versus tumor effects. Large numbers of hematopoietic cells can be collected with ease. Therefore, a renewable source of cells for ex vivo genetic manipulations is readily available. Multiple trials combining hematopoietic transplants and gene therapy are in progress. One such application is the infusion of allogeneic lymphocytes containing a suicide gene to abort graft versus host disease.

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is in reality the clinical and practical application of cellular therapy. Hematopoietic transplant physicians are by design or by practical application evolving into cell and gene therapy specialists. The excitement and enthusiasm in hematopoietic transplantation is that it offers a door to the future. A future not of drugs or titrating poisonous chemotherapy but rather of cellular and gene therapy.

"Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation has revolutionized the care of patients with hematologic malignancies. This text highlights novel approaches and techniques that will decrease toxicity and allow for the expansion of transplantation into new areas. Significant advances in the field are reviewed by internationally recognized experts."

Steven T. Rosen, M.D.

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