

Medical guidelines for survivors of stem cell transplantation

Recommended guidelines for survivors of hematopoietic (blood) stem cell transplantation (HCT) were first published in 2006. They were updated by an international panel of experts in 2011. These guidelines and screening recommendations were updated to meet the needs of the growing HCT field. HCT is increasingly used to cure more diseases for more people. Other cell sources are being used, such as umbilical cord blood. Older patients can now get transplants because the treatments are less toxic. Advances in transplant technology, techniques, supportive care, etc., mean that more patients are surviving longer after receiving a transplant. Because they are surviving longer, these patients are also at risk for late complications. This article describes best practices for follow-up, prevention, and screening of late complications. It also highlights the importance of multidisciplinary care and the needs of the global transplant community.