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Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for CD40 ligand deficiency: results from an EBMT/ESID-IEWP-SCETIDE-PIDTC Study

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148 Abstract

- Background: CD40 ligand (CD40L) deficiency, an X-linked primary immunodeficiency, causes recurrent sinopulmonary, *Pneumocystis* and *Cryptosporidium* infections. Long-term survival with supportive therapy is poor. Currently, the only curative treatment is hematopoietic stem cell
- 152 transplantation (HSCT).
- 153 Objective: We performed an international collaborative study to improve patients' management,
 154 aiming to individualize risk factors and determine optimal HSCT characteristics.
- Methods: We retrospectively collected data on 130 patients who underwent HSCT for CD40L deficiency between 1993-2015. We analyzed outcome and variables relevance with respect to survival and cure.
- 158 Results: Overall survival (OS), event-free survival (EFS) and disease-free survival (DFS) were 159 78.2%, 58.1% and 72.3% 5 years post-HSCT. Results were better in transplants performed ≥ 2000 160 and in children <10 years old at HSCT. Pre-existing organ damage negatively influenced outcome. 161 Sclerosing cholangitis was the most important risk factor. After 2000, superior OS was achieved 162 with matched donors. Use of myeloablative regimens and HSCT ≤ 2 years from diagnosis associated 163 with higher OS and DFS. EFS was best with matched sibling donors, myeloablative conditioning 164 (MAC) and bone marrow-derived stem cells. Most rejections occurred after reduced intensity or 165 non-myeloablative conditioning, which associated with poor donor cell engraftment. Mortality 166 occurred mainly early after HSCT, predominantly from infections. Among survivors who ceased 167 immunoglobulin replacement, T-lymphocyte chimerism was \geq 50% donor in 85.2%.
- 168 Conclusion: HSCT is curative in CD40L deficiency, with improved outcome if performed before
 169 organ damage development. MAC is associated with better OS, EFS and DFS. Prospective studies
 170 are required to compare risks of HSCT with those of life-long supportive therapy.
- 171

172 Key messages

- HSCT can be curative in CD40L deficiency, with best outcome if performed before 10 years
 of age and without organ damage, especially sclerosing cholangitis.
- Superior OS was achieved with matched donors. HSCT early after diagnosis and use of
 myeloablative regimens resulted in higher OS and DFS. EFS resulted improved with
 matched sibling donors, myeloablative conditioning and bone marrow as stem cell source.
- Reduced intensity and non-myeloablative conditioning were associated with poor donor cell
 engraftment.

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181 Capsule Summary

- 182 This manuscript reports the results of a worldwide survey of HSCT outcome in a large cohort of 183 patients with CD40L deficiency. Key findings about survival and cure rate will be relevant to 184 improve patients' management.
- 185

186 Key words

- 187 CD40 ligand, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, X-linked hyper-IgM syndrome, primary
- 188 immunodeficiency.
- 189

190 Abbreviations

191	AIHA	AutoImmune Hemolytic Anemia
192	ATG	Anti-Thymocyte Globulin
193	BM	Bone Marrow
194	Bu	Busulfan
195	CD40L	CD40 ligand
196	CSM	Class-switched memory
197	DFS	Disease-Free Survival
198	DLI	Donor Lymphocyte Infusion
199	EBMT	European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation
200	EFS	Event-Free Survival
201	ESID	European Society for Immunodeficiencies
202	FTT	Failure To Thrive
203	FU	Follow up
204	G-CSF	Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor
205	GVHD	Graft-versus-Host Disease
206	HSCT	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation
207	IEWP	Inborn Errors Working Party
208	MAC	Myeloablative Conditioning
209	MMFD	Mismatched Family Donor
210	MMUD	Mismatched Unrelated Donor
211	MSD	Matched Sibling Donor
212	MUD	Matched Unrelated Donor
213	NMA	Non-myeloablative
214	OS	Overall Survival

215	PBSC	Peripheral Blood Stem Cell
216	PID	Primary Immune Deficiency
217	PIDTC	Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium
218	PJP	Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia
219	PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
220	RIC	Reduced Intensity Conditioning
221	SCETIDE	Stem Cell Transplant for primary Immune Deficiencies in Europe
222	SE	Standard Error
223	TMP-SMX	Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole
224	UCB	Umbilical Cord Blood
225	VOD	Veno-Occlusive Disease
226	VS.	versus
		Chillip Mark

228 Introduction

229 CD40 ligand (CD40L) deficiency [X-linked hyper-IgM syndrome type $1^{1,2}$ (XHIM, 230 OMIM#308230)] is a rare X-linked primary immunodeficiency (PID) caused by mutations in 231 *CD40LG*, on chromosome Xq26.3-Xq27.1, encoding the transmembrane CD40L glycoprotein^{3–8} 232 (CD154, OMIM#300386). Mutations in *CD40LG* result in altered co-stimulatory T-lymphocyte 233 function⁹ which impairs B-lymphocyte isotype switching, antibody production, and dendritic cell 234 signaling. Myeloid cell function and development are also impaired^{10,11}. This leads to increased 235 susceptibility to bacterial and intracellular pathogens.

Patients usually present in early childhood with recurrent upper and lower respiratory tract infections, and *Pneumocystis jiroveci* interstitial pneumonia (PJP)^{12,13}. Acute or chronic diarrhea is frequently associated with *Cryptosporidium spp* infection that may lead to severe biliary tract disease, especially sclerosing cholangitis and cirrhosis, and rarely cholangiocarcinoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, and adenocarcinoma¹⁴.

An increased frequency of central nervous system infections [enteroviral meningoencephalitis¹⁵, JC
virus progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)¹⁶], often resulting in
neurodegeneration^{12,17}, has been reported.

Historically, long-term survival with conservative therapy has been poor, with 20-50% of patients surviving to the third decade^{12,18,19}. Hepatic disease and severe infections represent the major causes of death¹², and many patients develop chronic comorbidities¹⁸. More recent data show a median survival time from diagnosis of 25 years in 109 patients with XHIM²⁰.

Currently, the only curative treatment is hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). Numerous published case reports^{21–36} and single centre experiences^{37–42} report encouraging results, especially with an HLA-matched sibling donor (MSD). However, there is a risk of complications and overall survival (OS) is not optimal¹⁸. In the European retrospective analysis of 38 CD40L patients receiving HSCT⁴³, OS was 68%, with 32% of patients dying from infection-related complications, particularly severe cryptosporidiosis. Transplantation was curative in 58% of patients, 72% of those without hepatic disease. Pre-existing lung disease was the most important adverse risk factor.

The choice of performing early HSCT using myeloablative conditioning (MAC) or a later transplant with a reduced intensity conditioning (RIC) or treating patients with full supportive treatment only is still debated. Guidelines for the management of these patients were proposed by the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)/European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID) Inborn Errors Working Party (IEWP) in 2011⁴⁴. Recommendations about HSCT based on donor type and disease-related complication status, favored HSCT at diagnosis when a MSD was available and medical support until development of early complications for matched (MUD) or

mismatched (MMUD) unrelated donors, and progressive organ damage for mismatched related donors (MMFD). A recently published study⁴⁵ reported improved survival in 29 Japanese patients undergoing HSCT (OS 86.2%), with better event-free (EFS) and disease-free (DFS) survival in children younger than 5 years of age at time of transplantation. A multi-centre study comparing outcomes with or without HSCT showed an 85% OS in 67 patients in the transplant group²⁰.

We report the results of a retrospective international collaborative study on patients who underwent HSCT for CD40L deficiency between 1993-2015, reported in the <u>Stem CEII Transplant</u> for primary <u>Immune Deficiencies in Europe (SCETIDE)</u> and EBMT registries, and from North American Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium (PIDTC) centers. We analyzed outcome and relevance of different variables with respect to survival and cure rate after HSCT, aiming to individualize specific risk factors for patients and determine the optimal timing and type of HSCT.

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274 **Patients, materials, and methods**

- 275 Data collection
- 276 Transplant centers known to have performed HSCT in CD40L deficient patients were identified
- from SCETIDE and EBMT registries (for European, Saudi Arabian and Australian centers) andthrough the network of PIDTC centers in the United States.
- Retrospective data collection on the outcome of HSCT was performed by a comprehensive
 questionnaire for 130 patients with CD40L deficiency, transplanted in 36 centers in 18 countries,
 over 4 continents (see Table E1 in the Online Repository), between 1993 and 2015, with a follow
 up (FU) between 0.2 and 17.6 years (median: 4.1 years). Data from 35 patients have been
 previously published ^{1,20,21,33,34,36,39,42,43,46–49}.
- Patients in whom the diagnosis of CD40L deficiency was based on molecular genetic analysis and/or evidence of absent protein were included in the study. Five patients (3.8%) had no available molecular diagnosis or protein expression data, but were included based on their clinical history and presentation. Of these, 3 were transplanted before 2000 and died. At that time, molecular diagnosis was not always performed, and it was not possible to pursue diagnosis after death.
- 289 Centers were responsible for acquiring informed consent from patients and families for data290 collection and for quality of data entry.
- 291

292 Patient characteristics

- Patient clinical features pre-HSCT are summarized in Table I by year of HSCT, showing significant differences between the two historical cohorts. In particular, patients transplanted before 2000 were transplanted at an older age and at a greater interval after diagnosis, and they were clinically more compromised (> organ damage, especially liver disease, before transplant).
- Median age at diagnosis was 11 months (range: 0-131), and was not significantly influenced by the historical period. Forty-seven patients were diagnosed in the first 6 months of life, 11 at birth due to positive family history. CD40L protein expression on activated CD4+ T-lymphocytes was available for 87 patients (66.9%), absent in the majority (81.6%), most frequently quantified using flow cytometry. Diagnosis was confirmed by CD40L gene analysis in 108 patients (83.1%), which showed mainly deletions and missense mutations (see Table E2 in the Online Repository). CD40L expression before HSCT did not significantly differ in patients with these types of mutations.
- Additional details on the cohort clinical characteristics are reported in the Online Repositorymaterial.
- 306
- 307 Transplantation

308 Patients' performance status at time of transplant was determined by Lansky or Karnofsky score, 309 according to age. Most patients (70.2%) transplanted after 2000 had a score \geq 90 at first HSCT. 310 These data were unavailable for most transplants performed before 2000. Characteristics of first 311 HSCT, second HSCT, boosts and donor lymphocyte infusions (DLI) are summarized in Tables II 312 and E3 in the Online Repository. Conditioning regimens were grouped according to their intensity 313 and toxicity features into the following 4 types: MAC, myeloablative with low toxicity (MAC low tox), RIC^{50,51} and non-myeloablative (NMA) conditioning (see Table E4 and Figure E1 in the 314 Online Repository). MAC was the most commonly used conditioning for first transplants in the 315 316 historical group (92%), while after 2000, the use of RIC and MAC low tox regimens has increased 317 (24% and 20% respectively; p=0.0034). NMA was used in 2 first and 2 second transplants. Due to 318 the low numerosity of this group, this was not included in statistical analyses. Since no data about 319 Busulfan (Bu) pharmacokinetics (AUC) were available, Bu-containing regimens were divided 320 between MAC and RIC groups based on the total dose of Bu administered in case of combination 321 with fludarabine (14.3-25.0 mg/kg in MAC, 4.0-13.6 mg/kg in RIC, see Figure E1 in the Online 322 Repository). In the other cases, classification as MAC was based on other features (e.g. 323 combination with Cyclophosphamide), not solely on Bu dose.

Donor type was defined as: MSD, MUD (10/10, 12/12 or 8/8 HLA match), MMUD (with ≥ 1 mismatch); MMFD (with ≥ 1 mismatch), usually a haploidentical parent. Data about methods used for HLA match testing were available for only 51.3% of the procedures, with molecular techniques used in the majority of cases (75.3%). Data from donors with unavailable or inaccurate information about degree of matching (number of loci studied <8 for non-sibling donors) were excluded from statistical analysis.

MSD were the preferred donor types before 2000. The proportion of unrelated donors has since
increased for both matched and mismatched (39% and 31% respectively), mainly represented by
adult volunteers (Table II).

Stem cell source was bone marrow (BM), peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) and umbilical cord
blood (UCB). Until 1999, BM was the only stem cell source used for first HSCT. Use of PBSC and
UCB became subsequently more common (31% and 10% HSCT respectively, p=0.0006 - Table II).
T-lymphocyte depletion of the graft was performed in 28 procedures, mainly through positive

337 selection of CD34+ cells (n=19). This technique was used in all cases of PBSC transplants from

MMFD (n=4), 8 MMUD and 7 MUD transplants. In 6 recent unrelated donor PBSC transplants performed in a single centre since 2012, TCR alpha-beta depletion was used. *Ex vivo* graft manipulation details are reported (see Table E5 in the Online Repository). In vivo T-lymphocyte depletion was performed mainly by the use of anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG, 51.3%) and

342 alemtuzumab (20%), especially in the unrelated donor setting (see Table E4 in the Online343 Repository and data not shown).

- Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) prophylaxis was used in most procedures (92%). No additional
 GVHD prophylaxis was administered in 8/19 transplants with CD34+ cell selection and in 1 boost.
 GVHD prophylaxis regimen was based on cyclosporine administration in 88.4% of cases, alone
 (25.4%) or in combination with other drugs, mainly methotrexate (29.7%), mycophenolate mofetil
 (19.6%) or corticosteroids (9.5%). Acute GVHD was graded according to EBMT guidelines,
 defined as severe when ≥grade 3. Chronic GVHD was classified as extensive or limited, based on
 the clinical severity and extent of target organ involvement.
- Donor chimerism was defined as complete if \geq 95% cells were of donor origin, partial if between 5% and 95%, and absent if donor cells represented \leq 5% of total cells. Partial chimerism analysis on purified cell subpopulations (granulocytes, CD3+ T-lymphocytes and CD19+ B-lymphocytes) was analyzed in a subgroup of patients, subdivided into predominantly donor (50-94%) and predominantly recipient (6-49%). Fluorescence in situ hybridization or molecular testing based on short tandem repeats analysis, were used to monitor donor cell chimerism.
- 357 Additional details are reported in the Online Repository material.
- 358

359 *Statistical analysis*

The description of continuous variables was done using median and range or interquartile range, while the comparison between groups was based on the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test. Categorical variables were analyzed through frequency distributions and compared using the Chi-Square or the Fisher's exact test, as appropriate.

364 OS, EFS and DFS calculations were performed both in the whole cohort of patients, and in the 365 subgroups of patients transplanted before ("*historical cohort*") or since 2000. Comparisons of these 366 two groups are shown in Figures 1, 2 and E2 in the Online Repository. Results from the analyses 367 focused on most recently transplanted patients, more representative of current clinical practice, are reported in Table III. EFS was calculated as the time from HSCT to the first of the following 368 369 events: graft failure/absent engraftment, need for second HSCT, boost or DLI, grade 4 acute GVHD 370 or extensive chronic GVHD, requirement for immunoglobulin supplementation for >2 years after 371 HSCT or death. Events for the calculation of DFS were the ongoing requirement of 372 immunoglobulin supplementation 2 years after the last procedure and death, while the only event 373 considered for OS was death from any cause. Observations of patients were censored at the date of 374 last contact when no events were observed. The Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate the 375 probabilities of OS, EFS and DFS, with standard errors (SE) calculated according to Greenwood.

376 Curves were compared using the log-rank test and pairwise comparisons were adjusted for 377 multiplicity according to Sidek, while the Cox proportional hazard model was used for 378 multivariable analyses. All the tests were performed two-sided with a 0.05 level of significance.

379 The analyses were performed in SAS 9.3 software (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, USA) and R 3.2.2

380 software (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

381

15

382 Results

383 Overall Survival

Data from 154 procedures were collected: 130 first, 13 second and 1 third HSCT, 6 cell boosts (infusions of cells from the same donor without conditioning) and 4 DLI. Most were performed since 2000. Median age at first transplant was 4.0 years (range: 0.5-38.3 years). Patients from the historical cohort were transplanted at an older age (median: 8.5 years) compared to those treated after 2000 (median: 3.4 years, p=0.0012). Median time interval between diagnosis and HSCT was 2.0 years, slightly higher for HSCT before 2000 (3.9 years, p=0.0012) (Table I).

- Overall survival (OS) after first HSCT improved⁴³, reaching 81% and 78.2% at 2 and 5 years respectively. In particular, as observed in other PID, outcome improved after 2000, likely due to improvement in transplant-related procedures and patients' management (5 year-OS before 2000, 58.3%; since 2000, 82.2%; p=0.0030).
- Patients transplanted younger than 5 years of age reached nearly 90% OS at 2 and 5 years after HSCT. Those older than 10 years at treatment had a 37.8% OS at 5 years (p<0.0001). This "*ageeffect*" was also observed in transplants since 2000, although a slight improvement in OS was noted in older patients (OS 43.8% at 5 years, Table III and Figure 1A). Age at diagnosis (< vs. >12 months) did not influence OS. Waiting time between diagnosis and HSCT had an impact on outcome, with significantly better survival for those transplanted within 2 years from diagnosis (Figure 1F).
- 401 Pre-existing organ damage (mainly chronic lung disease and/or liver dysfunction) before HSCT 402 negatively influenced outcome (OS 61.5% at 2 years, 55.6% at 5 years; without organ damage, OS 403 92.9% at 2 and 5 years, p<0.0001). Liver disease, especially sclerosing cholangitis, was the most 404 important adverse risk factor (OS 51.2% and 46.9% at 5 years respectively, p<0.0001), followed by 405 protracted diarrhea (OS 55.5% at 5 years, p=0.0002) and cryptosporidial gastrointestinal infection 406 (OS 59.6% at 5 years, p=0.0004). These clinical features were confirmed to negatively influence 407 outcome also in most recent transplants, even if less profoundly (Figure 1B-E and Table III). Presence of chronic lung disease, previously a significant risk factor⁴³, did not significantly 408 409 influence survival in recent transplants. Type of CD40L gene mutation, previous clinical history of 410 respiratory tract infections, including PJP, requirement of ventilation before transplant, neutropenia, 411 oral ulcers, failure to thrive (FTT) and absent Cryptosporidium prophylaxis before HSCT had no 412 significant influence on OS.
- Use of myeloablative conditioning regimens resulted in better survival as compared to RIC after
 year 2000 (p=0.0073), with significant differences emerging at pairwise comparison between MAC

- low tox or MAC and RIC (p=0.0197 and p=0.0258, respectively Table E6). Of note, OS in
 patients receiving MAC improved in recent years (Table III, Figure E3A).
- Finally, a significant difference in OS emerged between different donor types (whole cohort, p=0.0198; >2000 p=0.0373), with better survival achieved with matched donors (both sibling and unrelated). However, at pairwise comparison, the difference in OS between MUD and MMUD was attenuated in most recent years (p=0.0545), reflecting an improved outcome also in the mismatched unrelated donor setting. Moreover, among adult volunteer donors, there seemed to be a negative trend in OS with increasing number of mismatches (Table III, Table E7 and Figure E3B).
- 423

424 Event-free Survival

EFS after first HSCT was 62.6% and 58.1% at 2 and 5 years respectively, with only a slight improvement after year 2000 (Table III). It was very low (25.2%) in patients transplanted at \geq 10 years of age, but an improvement was observed in recent years in this subgroup (Figure 2A). Age at diagnosis significantly influenced EFS, which appeared better in those diagnosed early (<1 year of age), while the time interval from diagnosis to HSCT was not relevant (Table III and data not shown).

- Pre-existing organ damage significantly impacted EFS, in particular the presence of sclerosing
 cholangitis, both in historical and in recent transplants, in spite of an improvement in the latter
 (Figure 2B-C and Table III). Other clinical features before HSCT and genotype did not strongly
 influence EFS.
- 435 MAC was associated with higher EFS (81.6% at 5 years in patients transplanted since 2000, 436 p<0.0001 – Table III and Figure 2F), as compared to MAC low tox and RIC (Table E6), possibly 437 explained by better engraftment of donor cells with this regimen or use in less compromised 438 patients. Stem cell source resulted in significant differences, with best EFS associated with BM 439 (73% at 5 years FU in patients transplanted since 2000, Table III and Figure 2E).
- 440 In recent years, no significant differences in EFS emerged between donor types in univariate441 analysis (Table III, Figure 2D).
- However, multivariable EFS analysis, performed on patients transplanted after 2000 with complete
 data (n=96), showed donor type and conditioning regimen as the most significant influences. In
 particular, patients receiving HSCT from mismatched or MUD donors showed respectively a 4.2and 3.3-fold increase in the hazard of event compared to those from MSD (p=0.0189, p=0.0607).
 RIC use was associated with a 3.2-fold increased hazard ratio, as compared to MAC (p=0.0323).
 Presence of pre-existing organ damage before HSCT was associated with a 2.7-fold increased

- hazard (p=0.1036). Pre-transplant sclerosing cholangitis and age at HSCT had no relevant role on
 EFS (see Table E8 in the Online Repository material).
- 450

451 Results of DFS analysis are described in the Online Repository material (see Figure E2 in the452 Online Repository).

- 453
- 454 *Causes of death*

Twenty-six deaths were reported, most of them transplant-related (n=22, 84.6%). Most occurred within 6 months of HSCT (n=20, 76.9%), mainly caused by infections (see Figure E4 in the Online Repository). Liver failure was the cause of death of 2 patients with pre-existing sclerosing cholangitis, who experienced severe liver GVHD, *Cryptosporidium* infection and VOD after transplant. Graft rejection was reported as primary cause of death in 3 patients.

Four non-transplant-related deaths were due to progression of original disease. In 2 cases, neurological complications occurred, with progressive neurodegeneration in one patient and worsening PML in another patient with history of JC virus encephalitis before transplant. In the other 2 cases, infection (n=1) and deteriorating liver function (n=1) were complicated by previous graft rejection (Table IV).

465

466 *Rejection*

467 Eighteen patients (14.8% of 122 patients with available data) experienced graft rejection after first 468 transplant (Table IV). Most occurred within 6 months of HSCT (72.2%), mainly after unrelated 469 donor transplant (83.3%, 10 MUD, 5 MMUD of which 3 adult volunteers and 2 UCB). Stem cell 470 source was BM, PBSC or UBC in 8, 8 and 2 patients respectively. Positive selection of CD34+ cells 471 was performed in 3 procedures. RIC was the most common conditioning regimen (n=8), followed 472 by MAC (n=5), MAC low tox (n=3) and NMA (n=2). Most patients experienced infections in the 473 first 6 months of FU after first transplant, mainly of viral origin. No signs of acute GVHD were 474 observed in 72.2% patients in this subgroup.

475 Most patients who rejected their first HSCT received further therapeutic interventions (10 second 476 HSCT, 1 third HSCT and 1 cell boost) after a median of 11.7 months from the first transplant. Most 477 were alive at last FU (81.8%), and in 66.7% immunoglobulin supplementation could be 478 discontinued. Seven patients did not receive additional cell therapy procedures. Three of these 479 patients continued supportive care with immunoglobulin supplementation and are alive, while the 480 remaining 4 died. Deaths occurred at a median of 25 months after HSCT, mainly due to disease 481 progression (infections, deteriorating liver function). Donor type, stem cell source and the

482 occurrence of viral infections early after HSCT or acute GVHD did not significantly influence the483 risk of rejection.

484

485 Information on additional procedures can be found in the Online Repository material (see Table E3486 in the Online Repository).

487

488 Engraftment and cure rate

489 Transplantation resulted in complete or partial donor chimerism in most patients, stable over time to 490 last FU (Figure 3A). Data about lineage-specific donor chimerism were available only for a 491 subgroup of patients. Median lineage-specific chimerism remained stably $\geq 88\%$ up to last FU (>1) 492 year after last procedure) in both granulocytes and T-lymphocytes, while in B-lymphocytes a slight 493 reduction in donor chimerism was observed over time (median donor chimerism: 75%) (Figure 3B). 494 At last available FU (>1 year) after last procedure (see Figure E5 in the Online Repository), donor 495 cell engraftment in granulocytes (CD15+ cells) and in T-lymphocytes (CD3+ cells) was complete 496 or predominantly donor in 78.1% and 82.9% patients with available data, respectively, while in B-497 lymphocytes, a higher percentage of predominantly recipient chimerism was observed (35.7% 498 patients).

499 Decreasing lineage-specific chimerism was observed over time in 27.8% transplants (with $FU \ge 1$ 500 year, among those with available data). However, in another 25% transplants, increasing donor cell 501 chimerism in T- and B-lymphocyte subpopulations was observed (Figure 4A). In this subgroup, 3 502 patients received DLI infusion with favorable effect on donor cell chimerism.

Among survivors who ceased immunoglobulin replacement ≥ 2 years after last procedure and for whom data were available, T-lymphocyte chimerism was complete or predominantly donor in 85.2%. B_cell chimerism was full donor in 7, and predominantly recipient (range: 18-43% donor chimerism) in 5 of them (Figure 4B).

A higher percentage of complete donor chimerism (63.2%) was observed in transplants in which patients did not experience viral infections after HSCT (Figure 4C). Moreover, viral infections after HSCT may have influenced T-lymphocyte chimerism kinetics: in the majority of transplants in which decreasing T-lymphocyte chimerism was observed (91.7%), viral infections occurred in early FU, likely favoring the expansion of autologous lymphocytes to replenish the niche (Figure 4D and data not shown).

513

514 Immune reconstitution and data regarding complications (see Table E9 in the Online Repository)515 can be found in the Online Repository material.

516 **Discussion**

This is the largest HSCT series for CD40L deficiency collected worldwide to date. It includes data from 130 patients transplanted over more than 20 years. Interestingly, the comparison of the 2 historical cohorts of patients, treated before and after 2000, clearly shows how patients' features have changed over time, mainly thanks to improvement in diagnostic tools and clinical management. Most recent patients have been transplanted at a younger age, with shorter time interval after diagnosis, and with lower organ damage burden. All this factors have contributed to the general HSCT outcome improvement observed in the past years.

These differences, though interesting, represented a difficulty in data analysis that was hampered by the presence of potential confounding between variables. For this reason, for main outcome measures, we analyzed historical periods separately. In particular, we decided to perform multivariate analysis only on most recent transplant cohort since it could not be performed including the "*period effect*" due to statistical model limitations. Moreover, while the heterogeneity induced by the period is relevant, we think that the evaluation of the more recent patients' cohort is more interesting since it reflects more closely the current clinical practice.

531 Other limitations of the study are represented by the sample heterogeneity typical of retrospective 532 observational studies, including many different centers and spanning over long time frames, and by 533 unavoidable intrinsic correlations between variables, such as the choice of conditioning regimen 534 and patient's clinical status. Furthermore, in spite the total number of patients included in the study 535 is the highest ever collected for this disease, analyses on patients' subgroups were limited by small 536 sample size, especially when evaluating different conditioning regimens, donor types and lineage-537 specific donor cell chimerism. This makes it difficult to draw strong conclusions, especially at 538 longest follow up, but our study provides a number of novel and interesting findings that should be 539 further explored in the future.

540 In spite of these difficulties, a number of important new observations emerge from this report. Firstly, overall survival post transplantation is now 80%, although there remain significant 541 542 differences between those transplanted <10 years of age, and those transplanted when older, even in 543 more recent years. Linked with this was a superior survival in those transplanted within 2 years of 544 the diagnosis of CD40L deficiency and in those without organ damage, specifically liver disease. 545 Importantly, in recent years, transplants from MSD and MUD had reached similar good results in 546 terms of OS, but not EFS, which remained lower with unrelated or mismatched donors. Most 547 patients who received MAC showed complete engraftment at last FU, whereas RIC was associated 548 with absent engraftment. New conditioning regimens, specifically low toxicity MAC, had superior 549 OS and DFS, but not EFS, as compared to RIC. This could likely be explained by the tendency to

- reach lower level of myeloid chimerism over time in patients who received these conditioningregimens, which may reflect decreased stem cell engraftment.
- 552 DFS was more likely with the use of myeloablation. Patients who ceased immunoglobulins were 553 stable over time, even if additional procedures (repeat HSCT, boost infusions) were required to 554 attain this in some cases. Among those with $FU \ge 2$ years, median CD40L expression on activated 555 CD4+ T cells was 49% in those who stopped immunoglobulin supplementation and 14.5% in those 556 who still needed it. T-lymphocyte chimerism was complete or predominantly donor in most cured 557 patients, but unfortunately, a minimum T cell donor percentage reliably associated with 558 immunoglobulin independence could not be retrieved based on available data.
- 559 Deaths were mainly related to transplant-associated complications including graft rejection, 560 although a few were due to progression of pre-existing neurological disease. Rejection rate was 561 15%, usually occurring early after transplant, although re-transplantation was usually successful. 562 Among those who rejected their first transplant, only 11.1% received HSCT from MSD, in line with 563 the finding of lower EFS in transplants from other type of donors.
- A higher percentage of complete donor chimerism (63.2%) was observed in transplants in which patients did not experience viral infection after HSCT. Moreover, viral infection after HSCT may have influenced T-lymphocyte chimerism kinetics: in the majority of transplants in which decreasing T-lymphocyte chimerism was observed (91.7%), viral infections occurred in early FU, likely favoring the expansion of autologous T-lymphocytes to replenish the niche.
- Although we did not compare our results with non-transplanted patients, previous reports have demonstrated similar survival as ours, although improved quality of life in those undergoing HSCT²⁰. However, from our data, clear trends emerge. HSCT is curative, but best results continue to be seen in younger patients, with least organ damage and infection-free. Furthermore, MAC is associated with a better immunological outcome than RIC regimens, again favoring earlier HSCT.
- There is a need for prospective studies directly comparing risks of HSCT with those of life-long immunoglobulin and prophylaxis. Additionally, advances in gene therapy, and particularly gene editing may be attractive as a potential therapeutic alternative for those for whom HSCT is too risky because of associated clinical features and poor donor options, particularly given that infusion of gene-corrected T-lymphocytes may be curative⁵².
- 579
- 580 **Conflicts of interest:** none.
- 581
- 582

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588

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756 Figure legends

757

758 Figure 1. Characteristics influencing overall survival (OS) in patients receiving first 759 hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) before/after 2000. (A) Age at HSCT. Survival 760 curves of patients <5 and 5-10 years old at HSCT, transplanted before 2000, are superimposed. (B) 761 Organ damage before HSCT. (C) Cryptosporidium infection before HSCT. (D) All liver alterations. (E) Sclerosing cholangitis. (F) Waiting time to HSCT from diagnosis. Under each graph, the 762 763 number of patients at risk at each follow up time point after HSCT is reported for all patient groups. 764 OS curves of the different patients' groups are represented by solid or dashed lines. For each of 765 them, a specific label is reported nearby the corresponding curve. yrs, years.

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767 Figure 2. Characteristics influencing event-free survival (EFS) in patients receiving first 768 HSCT before/after 2000. (A) Age at HSCT. (B) Organ damage before HSCT. (C) Sclerosing 769 cholangitis before HSCT. (D) Donor type. (E) Source of stem cells. (F) Conditioning regimen. 770 Under each graph, the number of patients at risk at each follow up time point after HSCT is 771 reported for all patient groups. EFS curves of the different patients' groups are represented by solid 772 or dashed lines. For each of them, a specific label is reported nearby the corresponding curve. yrs, 773 years; BM, bone marrow; CB, cord blood; PB, peripheral blood; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; 774 MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning.

775

776 Figure 3. Donor cell engraftment after first HSCT and after last procedure. (A) Overall donor 777 cell engraftment over time, represented by percentage (%) of subjects with complete, partial or 778 absent engraftment on unsorted cells at different time points after first HSCT (*left panel*) and after 779 last procedure (*right panel*). *3 patients with full chimerism received donor lymphocyte infusions 780 (DLI); **% of those with available data. (B) Median lineage-specific donor cell engraftment over 781 time, at different time points after first HSCT (left panels) and after last procedure (right panels). 782 Data on unsorted cells, sorted myeloid cells (CD15), T lymphocytes (CD3) and B lymphocytes 783 (CD19) are reported. For each median value, interquartile range is plotted and the number of 784 subjects for whom data where available at each FU is reported in brackets. FU, follow up; mo., 785 months.

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Figure 4. Engraftment kinetics and T-cell chimerism. (A) Donor cell engraftment kinetics, represented by the percentage (%) of transplant procedures in which increasing, declining or stable donor cell engraftment was observed over time, ≥ 1 year after last procedure. °,1 or °°°,3 patient(s)

received DLI. Data on unsorted cells, sorted myeloid cells (CD15+), B lymphocytes (CD19+) and T
lymphocytes (CD3+) are reported. (B) T-cell and B-cell chimerism at last follow up (FU) in
survivors, OFF immunoglobulin replacement (IG) at 2 or more years (yr) after last procedure (*).
(C) T-cell chimerism at last FU, according to the occurrence of viral infections after HSCT
(YES/NO). (D) Donor T-cell chimerism kinetics over time (increasing/declining/stable), according
to the occurrence of viral infections after HSCT (YES/NO). ⁰⁰⁰,3 patients received DLI. **% of
transplants (or subjects) with available data.

Table I – Clinical features of CD40L deficient-patients before first HSCT

Patients' features before HSCT		All j (n	p atients =130)	HSCT (up to 1999 n=24)	HSC	HSCT since 2000 (n=106)		
	Total*	Medi	an (range)	Medi	an (range)	Med	lian (range)	p-value	
Age at diagnosis (months)	126	11.0	(0-131)	13.0	(3-129)	10.7	(0-131)	0.2466	
Age at HSCT (years)	130	4.0	(0.5-38.3)	8.5	(1.0-18.1)	3.4	(0.5-38.3)	0.0012	
Interval between diagnosis and HSCT (years)	126	2.0	(0-27.4)	3.9	(0.9-16.2)	1.5	(0-27.4)	0.0012	
	Total*	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	p-value	
CD40L expression - absent - low	87	71 16	(82) (19)	11 1	(92) (8)	60 15	(80) (20)	0.4525	
Age at HSCT (years) - 0-5 - 5-10 - >10	130	79 26 25	(61) (20) (19)	10 5 9	(42) (21) (37)	69 21 16	(65) (20) (15)	0.0320	
Organ damage before HSCT	119	45	(38)	15	(71)	30	(31)	0.0005	
Infections before HSCT - all - URTI - LRTI - PJP - Cryptosporidium	129 124 125 108 118	117 60 86 47 29	(91) (48) (69) (44) (25)	22 14 15 7 9	(96) (67) (71) (39) (47)	95 46 71 40 20	(89) (45) (68) (44) (20)	0.6919 0.0659 0.7756 0.6643 0.0189	
Need of ventilation	106	38	(36)	6	(38)	32	(36)	0.8812	
Chronic lung disease Neutropenia	114 123	17 57	(15) (46)	5 11	(29) (52)	12 46	(12) (45)	0.1305 0.5422	
Oral ulcers	122	26	(21)	6	(29)	20	(20)	0.3869	
Failure to thrive (FTT)	125	37	(30)	7	(33)	30	(29)	0.6812	
Protracted diarrhoea	126	31	(25)	10	(48)	21	(20)	0.0073	
Liver disease**	126	33	(26)	11	(50)	22	(21)	0.0052	
Sclerosing cholangitis	125	28	(22)	9	(43)	19	(18)	0.0211	
Autoimmunity	111	6	(5)	1	(7)	5	(5)	0.5636	
Malignancies	119	3	(3)	2	(10)	1	(1)	0.0800	
IG supplementation	125	123	(98)	19	(90)	104	(100)	0.0271	
Cryptosporidium prophylaxis	100	31	(31)	7	(54)	24	(28)	0.1035	
PJP prophylaxis	113	109	(97)	15	(88)	94	(98)	0.1068	

CD40L, CD40 ligand; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; Q1, first quartile; Q3, third quartile; URTI, upper respiratory tract infections; LRTI, lower respiratory tract infections; PJP, *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia; IG, immunoglobulins.

Organ damage was defined as the presence of chronic lung disease and/or liver alterations (sclerosing cholangitis or liver fibrosis or hepatitis). Significant p-values (p < 0.05) are in bold.

* Number of patients with available data.

** All liver alterations, including also ascending cholangitis, mild hepatic portal inflammation and minimal alterations.

First HSCT		All p (n=	atients =130)	HSCT (n	up to 1999 =24)	HSCT (n	since 2000 =106)	
characteristics	Total*	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	p-value
Conditioning regimen	129							0.0034
- MAC		79	(61)	22	(92)	57	(54)	
- MAC low tox		21	(16)	0	(0)	21	(20)	
- RIC		27	(21)	2	(8)	25	(24)	
- NMA		2	(2)	0	(0)	2	(2)	
GVHD prophylaxis	129							1.0000
- Yes		123	(95)	23	(96)	100	(95)	
- No		6	(5)	1	(4)	5	(5)	
Donor type	123							0.3092
- MSD		37	(30)	10	(45)	27	(27)	
- MUD		46	(37)	7	(32)	39	(39)	
- ad. vol.		46	(100)	7	(100)	39	(100)	
- UCB		0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	
- MMUD		36	(29)	5	(23)	31	(31)	
- ad. vol.		29	(81)	5	(100)	24	(77)	
- UCB		7	(19)	0	(100)	7	(23)	
- MMFD		4	(3)	0	(0)	4	(4)	
Stem cell source	129							0 0006
- BM	129	86	(67)	24	(100)	62	(59)	0.0000
- PBSC		33	(07)	2 4 0	(100)	33	(31)	
		10	(23)	0	(0)	10	(10)	
- 000		10	(8)	0	(0)	10	(10)	

Table II - Characteristics of first HSCT performed on 130 CD40L deficient-patients

CD40L, CD40 ligand; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; NMA, non-myeloablative conditioning; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; GVHD, graft-versus-host-disease; MSD, matched sibling donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MMUD, mismatched unrelated donor; MMFD, mismatched family donor; BM, bone marrow; PBSC, peripheral blood stem cells; UCB, umbilical cord blood; DLI, donor lymphocyte infusion; ad. vol., adult volunteer. Significant p-values (p <0.05) are in bold.

* Number of patients with available data.

		0	DS			F	EFS				DFS	
Characteristics	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	5 yrs FU (%) (%)	p-value	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	5 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	p-value	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU (%) (%)) 5 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	p-value
Overall	16/106	86.1 3.5	82.2 4.3	-	37/106	64.2 3.6	61.3 5.1	-	20/106	78.7 4.5	77.1 4.7	-
Age at HSCT (yrs)				0.0005				0.0238				0.0001
<5	6/69	91.0 3.5	91.0 3.5		24/69	64.3 6.1	62.1 6.3		8/65	85.4 4.9	85.4 4.9	
5-10	3/21	89.3 7.2	82.4 9.4		4/21	85.2 7.9	78.1 9.3		4/26	85.5 7.9	79.8 9.2	
≥ 10	7/16	58.3 13.8	43.8 16.1		9/16	33.3 13.3	33.3 13.3		8/15	38.1 14.3	38.1 14.3	
Age at diagnosis (mos)				0.2777				0.0148				0.06
<12	7/59	89.6 4.0	86.8 4.8		15/59	72.8 6.1	72.8 6.1		8/60	87.2 4.6	84.4 5.3	
>12	9/45	80.6 6.2	75.8 7.5		22/45	51.0 8.0	44.6 8.2		12/43	64.8 8.5	64.7 8.5	
Time between diagnosis and				0.0014				0 1226				0.0025
HSCT (yrs)				0.0014				0.1220				0.0025
≤2	3/59	94.3 3.2	94.3 3.2		17/59	69.7 6.5	66.8 6.9		4/53	90.5 4.6	90.5 4.6	
>2	13/45	74.8 6.6	67.2 7.9		20/45	55.8 7.7	52.8 7.8		16/50	65.5 7.4	62.5 7.7	
Organ damage before HSCT				0.0014				0.0071				<0.0001
No	5/68	92.2 3.4	92.2 3.4		16/68	74.5 5.6	74.5 5.6		4/60	92.9 3.4	92.9 3.4	
Yes	10/30	72.4 8.4	62.7 9.8		15/30	49.5 9.6	45.7 9.6		12/28	58.3 9.7	53.9 10.0	
Chronic lung disease				0.2545				0.1433				0.1026
No	10/85	89.0 3.5	86.9 4.0		24/85	71.0 5.2	69.0 5.4		11/79	85.1 4.5	82.7 5.0	
Yes	3/12	73.3 13.2	73.3 13.2		6/12	45.8 15.0	45.8 15.0		4/12	64.8 14.3	64.8 14.3	
Cryptosporidium infection				0.001				0.0602				.0.0001
(gastrointestinal)				0.001				0.0603				<0.0001
No	7/79	90.7 3.4	90.7 3.4		23/79	69.9 5.5	67.9 5.7		7/74	89.7 4.0	89.7 4.0	
Yes	7/20	68.8 10.7	60.2 12.3		9/20	50.0 12.1	50.0 12.1		8/18	55.7 13.2	44.6 14.5	
Protracted diarrhea				0.0023				0.5314				0.0371
No	8/84	90.2 3.3	90.2 3.3		28/84	65.8 5.6	61.9 5.9		10/76	84.4 4.7	84.4 4.7	
Yes	8/21	70.2 10.2	56.3 12.2		9/21	56.1 11.0	56.1 11.0		8/22	65.5 10.7	60.1 11.1	
Sclerosing cholangitis				0.0003				0.0126				<0.0001
No	8/85	90.0 3.4	90.0 3.4		26/85	67.7 5.5	65.7 5.6		8/79	88.3 4.0	88.3 4.0	
Yes	8/19	67.5 11.0	52.1 12.9		11/19	43.0 12.0	36.8 11.8		10/18	46.0 12.4	38.3 12.5	
Liver disease**				0.002				0.0666				0.0009
No	8/82	89.7 3.5	89.7 3.5	Y	26/82	66.7 5.6	64.6 5.8		10/80	85.3 4.4	85.3 4.4	
Yes	8/22	71.8 9.9	57.6 12.1		11/22	49.7 11.4	44.2 11.4		10/22	53.8 11.6	6 47.1 12.0	
Pneumonias				0.6865				0.7624				0.6436
No	6/33	84.2 6.5	76.5 9.4		13/33	65.4 8.5	56.7 9.3		7/32	71.4 9.5	71.4 9.5	
Yes	10/71	86.7 4.2	84.4 4.6		23/71	64.6 6.7	64.6 6.7		11/65	82.9 5.0	80.2 5.5	
РЈР				0.6862				0.9663				0.9081
No	6/50	87.2 4.9	87.2 4.9		16/50	68.0 6.9	64.9 7.2		8/51	82.0 6.0	82.0 6.0	
Yes	6/40	87.2 5.4	83.1 6.5		13/40	63.6 8.3	63.6 8.3		6/35	83.6 6.9	78.3 8.2	
URTI				0.4377				0.1809				0.1457
No	7/57	88.3 4.5	84.6 5.7		16/57	66.6 7.1	66.6 7.1		7/55	86.1 5.5	82.0 6.6	
Yes	9/46	82.4 5.7	78.5 6.6		20/46	60.0 7.3	54.8 7.6		11/40	70.0 7.7	70.0 7.7	

Table III – OS, EFS and DFS in CD40L deficient-patients transplanted since year 2000

	OS					EFS				DFS			
Characteristics	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	5 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	p-value	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	5 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	p-value	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	5 yrs FU SE (%) (%)	p-value	
Need of ventilation before				0 5722				0.9709				0.6827	
HSCT				0.3752				0.8708				0.0827	
No	7/58	89.2 4.2	86.2 5.0		19/58	65.9 6.7	63.3 6.9		10/55	80.8 5.9	77.4 6.6		
Yes	5/32	82.7 7.2	82.7 7.2		10/32	67.3 8.6	67.3 8.6		4/29	84.1 7.4	84.1 7.4		
Neutropenia				0.3152				0.3861				0.8773	
No	10/56	82.6 5.3	79.3 6.0		17/56	67.3 6.7	67.3 6.7		10/55	80.8 6.0	77.1 6.7		
Yes	5/46	88.8 4.7	88.4 4.7		18/46	62.1 7.6	55.9 8.0		7/39	79.2 7.2	79.2 7.2		
Oral ulcers				0.3384				0.8886				0.8351	
No	9/81	89.7 3.5	87.6 4.0		26/81	68.1 5.5	64.2 5.8		13/81	82.4 4.8	80.2 5.1		
Yes	4/20	83.8 8.6	73.3 12.4		7/20	61.5 11.5	61.5 11.5		2/14	80.2 12.8	80.2 12.8		
FTT				0.868				0.74				0.4987	
No	11/74	87.4 3.9	81.7 5.5		25/74	63.3 5.9	63.3 5.9		11/69	84.1 4.7	81.6 5.2		
Yes	5/30	81.8 7.4	81.8 7.4		12/30	63.4 9.5	51.9 10.7		6/27	70.6 10.6	70.6 10.6		
No Cryptosporidium				0.0006				0.0200				0.0141	
prophylaxis before HSCT				0.8890				0.9509				0.9141	
No	6/63	84.8 4.7	84.8 4.7		21/63	65.7 6.4	63.1 6.6		10/62	80.9 5.6	80.9 5.6		
Yes	3/24	87.5 6.8	87.5 6.8		8/24	61.9 10.9	61.9 10.9		3/21	85.7 7.6	85.7 7.6		
Conditioning regimen				0.0073				< 0.0001				0.0031	
MAC	5/57	92.7 3.5	90.0 4.3		10/57	81.6 5.3	81.6 5.3		6/58	91.0 3.9	88.3 4.6		
RIC	8/25	71.8 9.1	62.8 11.5		16/25	41.9 10.2	32.6 9.8		9/23	55.0 11.6	55.0 11.6		
MAC low tox	1/21	93.3 6.4	93.3 6.4		8/21	42.8 15.8	42.8 15.8		1/17	83.3 15.2	83.3 15.2		
NMA^	1/2	50.0 35.4	0 0		2/2	0 §	0 0		2/3	33.3 27.2	33.3 27.2		
Donor type				0.0373				0.0605				0.2619	
MSD	3/27	88.8 6.1	88.8 6.1		5/27	85.0 6.9	80.8 7.8		4/27	88.8 6.1	84.6 7.1		
MUD	2/39	94.0 4.1	94.0 4.1		13/39	61.6 9.0	56.9 9.5		5/38	94.2 4.0	77.6 9.3		
MMUD ad. vol.	7/24	72.7 9.8	58.1 15.2		10/24	52.1 11.9	52.1 11.9		7/24	72.6 9.8	63.6 12.0		
MMFD+mmUCB	3/11	81.8 11.6	70.1 14.7		6/11	45.5 15.0	45.5 15.0		2/11	90.9 8.7	77.9 14.1		
Stem cell source				0.0936				0.0035				0.1123	
BM	6/62	91.7 3.6	88.3 4.8		15/62	75.5 5.8	73.0 6.1		8/60	84.1 5.3	84.1 5.3		
PBSC	7/33	78.4 8.0	72.8 9.2		17/33	43.6 10.1	37.4 10.4		10/36	65.2 10.0	58.7 10.9		
UCB	3/10	70.0 14.5	70.0 14.5		5/10	50.0 15.8	50.0 15.8		2/8	75.0 15.3	75.0 15.3		

Organ damage was defined as the presence of chronic lung disease and/or liver alterations (sclerosing cholangitis or liver fibrosis or hepatitis). EFS and OS were calculated from first HSCT, while DFS from the last procedure (i.e. second HSCT, boost or DLI), thus the analyses were performed considering the covariates at the proper procedure. * Number of patients with available data. ** All liver alterations, including also ascending cholangitis, mild hepatic portal inflammation and minimal alterations. ^ NMA group is reported for descriptive purposes only, but it has not been included in the statistical analyses (Log Rank test) due to its low numerosity. § SE not estimable at this time point. °No subjects at risk at this time point. Significant p-values (p <0.05) are in bold.

Ev, events; pts, patients; SE, standard error; OS, overall survival; EFS, event-free survival; DFS, disease-free survival; yrs, years; mos, months; FU, follow up; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; URTI, upper respiratory tract infections; PJP, *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia; FTT, failure to thrive; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; NMA, non-myeloablative; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; MSD, matched sibling donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MMUD, mismatched unrelated donor; MMFD, mismatched family donor; ad. vol., adult volunteer; mm, mismatched; UCB, umbilical cord blood; BM, bone marrow; PBSC, peripheral blood stem cells.

Table IV – Transplant features, therapeutic intervention and outcome in 18 patients who experienced graft rejection after 1st HSCT for CD40L deficiency

	Pt. no.	Year of 1 st HSCT	1 st HSCT stem cell source	1 st HSCT Donor type	1 st HSCT conditioning regimen	Timing of rejection/ declining chimerism	Therapeutic intervention (months after 1 st HSCT)	Infections in the early FU*	Acute GVHD (grade)	Outcome (at last FU)
	8	2012	BM	MUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/ATG)	6 mo. FU	2nd HSCT (28.4)	ADV, EBV Bacterial sepsis	Yes (grade I)	Alive (on IVIG)
	9	2012	PBSC (TCR αβ depl.)	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/ATG)	6 mo. FU	2 nd HSCT (8)	ARVI	Yes (grade II)	Alive (OFF Ig)
	15	2007	BM	MSD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	> 12 mo. FU (6y)§	None	ADV, Crypto.	No	Alive (on IVIG)
	33	2009	PBSC	MUD	NMA (Flu/ATG)	12 mo. FU§	2 nd HSCT (15.4) ^	HHV6, Crypto.	No	Alive (on IVIG)
	37	1996	BM (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MUD	MAC (Bu/Cy/aLFA1-2)	6 mo. FU	None	No	No	Alive (on IVIG)
	41	2001	PBSC (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MMFD (haplo)	MAC (BU/Cy/ATG)	6 mo. FU	None	Whipworm	No	Deceased
	49a	2001	BM (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MUD	MAC (BU/Cy/ATG)	6 mo. FU	2nd HSCT (12.5)	HHV6, ADV CVL infection	No	Alive (OFF Ig)
	74	2014	BM	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/Alemtuzumab)	19 mo. FU §	2nd HSCT (21.4)	CMV, Parainfl. URTI	No	Alive (on IVIG)
Graft	77	2004	PBSC	MMUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/ATG)	6 mo. FU	2nd HSCT (10.9) 3rd HSCT (31.1)	CMV reactiv. Clostridium diff.	No	Alive (OFF Ig)
rejection	83	2001	BM	MMUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/ATG)	12 mo. FU	None	EBV, Crypto. BK virus	Yes (grade I)	Deceased
	85	2003	BM	MSD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	6 mo. FU	2nd HSCT (21.1)	No	No	Alive (OFF Ig)
	86	2006	PBSC	MUD°	NMA (Flu/Cy/Alemtuzumab + anti-CD45)	6 mo. FU	None	Mycobacteria (gut)	No	Deceased
	89	2011	PBSC	MUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	> 12 mo. FU (3y)	None	ADV	No	Alive (on SCIG)
	98	2007	UCB	MMUD	MAC (Bu/Cy/ATG)	<1 mo. FU	2nd HSCT (1.3)	CMV	No	Alive (OFF Ig)
	102	1997	BM (T-cell depleted)	MUD	MAC (BU-Cy-ATG + in vivo LFA1 CD2)	<1 mo. FU	Cell boost (1.1)	Aspergillus, Gram - sepsis	No	Deceased
	107	2011	PBSC	MUD°	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	< 3 mo. FU	2nd HSCT (3.3)	NA	NA	Alive (OFF Ig)
	124	2014	PBSC (CD45RA-depleted)	MMUD	RIC (Bu/Flu/TT/ATG)	< 3 mo. FU	None	ADV, Rhinovirus Crypto.	No	Deceased
	125	2003	UCB	MMUD	RIC (Bu/Flu/ATG)	< 2 mo. FU	2 nd HSCT (2)	NA	NA	Deceased

* first 6 months after 1st HSCT; ° no. of HLA loci studied not specified; § chimerism declining since 6 months of FU.

[^] This patient also received 2 liver transplantations, 1 before 1st HSCT, 1 after 2nd HSCT. He also experienced cGVHD after 2nd HSCT.

ADV, Adenovirus; Crypto., Criptosporidium spp.; DLI, donor lymphocyte infusion; depl., depleted; NA, not available; Parainfl., Parainfluenza virus; reactiv., reactivation; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; FU, follow up; BM, bone marrow; PBSC, peripheral blood stem cells; UCB, umbilical cord blood; MMFD, mismatched family donor; MSD, matched sibling donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MMUD, mismatched unrelated donor; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; NMA, non-myeloablative; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; no., number; CMV, cytomegalovirus; EBV, Epstein Barr virus; HHV6, human herpes virus 6; RSV, Respiratory Syncytial virus; URTI, upper respiratory tract infection; ARVI, acute respiratory viral infection; CVL, central venous line; IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulins; Ig, immunoglobulins; SCIG, subcutaneous immunoglobulins; NA, not available.

Figure 1 – Overall Survival

(A) Age at HSCT



(B) Organ damage before HSCT



Figure 2 – **Event-free Survival**

(A) Age at HSCT



(B) Organ damage before HSCT



(D) Donor type



(F) Conditioning regimen



Figure 3 – Donor cell engraftment



Figure 4 – Engraftment kinetics and T-cell chimerism



1 Online Repository (OR) material

2

3 Patients, materials, and methods

4 Patient characteristics

5 Clinical history was characterized by recurrent infections in most patients (Table I), mainly 6 involving the respiratory tract, requiring ventilation in 36%. Forty-seven patients experienced PJP. 7 Chronic lung disease developed in 15%. Cryptosporidium infection was more frequent in patients 8 transplanted before 2000 (47% patients, p=0.0189), as well as protracted diarrhea (48% patients, 9 p=0.0073). Sclerosing cholangitis was more prevalent in this group (43% patients) as compared to 10 the more recent transplant group (18%, p=0.0211). Liver disease affected 26% of all patients, 50% 11 of those transplanted before year 2000. Four patients underwent orthotopic liver transplantation 12 before HSCT. Neutropenia was detected in 46% patients, treated with G-CSF in 26%. Oral ulcers 13 and failure to thrive (FTT) were reported in 21% and 30% of patients, respectively. Central nervous system involvement was described in 10 patients: 4 had meningo-encephalitis, and developmental 14 15 delay was described in 6 patients. In summary, organ damage before HSCT was present in 38% 16 patients, significantly higher in the historic transplant cohort (71%, p=0.0005), when HSCT 17 candidates were more compromised than those transplanted after 2000.

The type of CD40L gene mutation (deletion or missense) did not significantly influence infection rate or organ damage burden before transplant. Only a tendency to less pre-HSCT liver disease (9.4%) emerged in patients with missense mutations, as compared to those with deletions (27.8%), but this was not statistically significant (p=0.0686).

Most patients received immunoglobulin supplementation and PJP prophylaxis before HSCT, with a higher prevalence after 2000 for immunoglobulin supplementation (p=0.0271). *Cryptosporidium* prophylaxis was less common (31% patients).

25

26 Transplantation

- 27 Median infused cell dose was 5.08×10^8 nucleated cells/kg (range: 0.03 337.55), with 6.90×10^6 28 CD34+cells/kg (range: 0.10 - 43.72) and 29.85×10^6 CD3+ cells/kg (range: 0.001 - 1000).
- 29 Neutrophil and platelet engraftment were defined as first day of 3 consecutive days >500/µl and
- $30 > 50.000/\mu$ l, respectively. Median engraftment occurred 17 days after transplant for neutrophils and
- 31 22 days for platelets.
- 32

33 **Results**

34 Conditioning

The most common conditioning regimen in first transplants was MAC (61%), more prevalent before 2000 (92%, Table II), mainly based on the combination of busulfan (Bu) and cyclophosphamide (Cy) [no longer recommended due to the risk of veno-occlusive disease (VOD)], followed by Bu at myeloablative dose and fludarabine (Flu) (Table E4). RIC usage increased in subsequent years, mainly based on Flu/Melphalan (Mel) or Flu/Bu at reduced intensity dose. The use of MAC low toxicity has been introduced since 2004, with the administration of treosulfan (Treo) and Flu ± Thiotepa (TT).

42 The choice of the conditioning regimen in first transplants was strongly influenced by clinical 43 condition. Notably, RIC was used in older patients compared to myeloablative regimens [median 44 age at HSCT (years), before 2000: RIC 12.8, MAC 7.2; after 2000: RIC 6.0, MAC 2.4, MAC low 45 tox 3.6]. Moreover, 54.6% of patients receiving RIC had organ damage before HSCT. Most patients who received MAC showed complete engraftment at 6-month, 12-month and last follow up after 1st 46 47 HSCT (70.7%, 68.2% and 66.7% respectively). Among patients with absent engraftment, most 48 received RIC for first HSCT (50.0%, 50.0% and 80.0% at 6-month, 12-month and last follow up). 49 Of note, in patients receiving MAC low toxicity or RIC regimens, a tendency to reach a lower level 50 of myeloid (CD15) engraftment could be observed over time, especially at $FU \ge 1$ year after first or 51 last HSCT (Figure E6). In the 2 patients who received NMA for first transplant, engraftment of 52 donor cells was poor, leading to graft rejection in both cases (Table IV).

53

54 Additional procedures (second/third HSCT/boosts/DLI)

Twenty-two patients (16.9%) received one or more additional procedures after the first HSCT,
generally due to poor engraftment.

- 57 Thirteen patients (10%) underwent a second HSCT, mainly due to first HSCT failure/rejection 58 (76.9%, Table E3), at a median of 11 months after the first procedure. In one case, a 2nd transplant 59 was performed due to a refractory AIHA. All these patients received their first transplant after 2000. 50 Stem cell source was BM (n=6), PBSC (n=5) and UCB (n=2), mainly from unrelated donors 51 (12/13). MAC low toxicity and RIC were the most used conditioning regimens for the first HSCT
- 62 in these patients (n=5 and n=4 respectively, Table E3).
- 63 For the second procedure, in 5 cases, the cell source or donor type was changed, with an increased
- 64 use of PBSC (n=8) and MMFD (n=2). The intensity of conditioning was augmented in 6 cases.
- Most patients were alive and off immunoglobulin supplementation (53.9%) at last FU. However, 2

- required a third procedure (respectively, a stem cell boost and a third HSCT) to achieve this result(Table E3).
- Six patients transplanted for the first time between 1997 and 2004 received a stem cell boost
 thereafter, mainly due to slipping donor chimerism, especially in T cells, and declining CD40L
 expression (Table E3). In most cases, these patients first received T-cell depleted unrelated BM
 HSCT preceded by MAC.
- 72 Cell boosts, consisting of BM-derived stem cell infusions from the same donor, were performed at a 73 median of 20.7 months after the last procedure, with no conditioning regimen. In one case (pt.49), 74 alemtuzumab was administered between day -22 and -18. In 50% cases, boosts stabilized donor cell 75 engraftment with favorable effects on immune reconstitution, resulting in survival free from 76 immunoglobulin supplementation.
- 77 In most recent years (since 2009), DLI were used in cases of low/absent engraftment of donor cells 78 (especially T lymphocytes) in order to re-establish full donor chimerism, or in cases of absent or 79 delayed immune recovery in the early FU phase (Table E3). In our cohort, 4 patients received this 80 treatment after a first PBSC HSCT (T cell depleted and TCR $\alpha\beta$ depleted in 2 cases, respectively), 81 from 3 MUD and 1 MMFD (haplo). RIC and MAC low toxicity conditioning regimens were 82 administered to 2 patients each. All of them experienced viral infections in the first 6 months after 83 HSCT. Each patient received 2 or 3 DLI infusions, within the first year of FU. This approach was 84 well tolerated by patients and was successful in 75% enabling cessation of immunoglobulin 85 supplementation.
- 86

87 Immune reconstitution after HSCT

Median total lymphocyte, T cell (both CD4+ and CD8+ subsets) and B cell count normalized^{E1} by 88 the first 12 months of FU. Most B cells were naïve (CD19+/CD27-/IgM+), but at last FU, class-89 switched memory B cells resulted normal for age^{E2} in 6 out of the 12 patients for whom data were 90 91 available. Serum IgA level was still low/absent in most patients (67.1%) at 6 month-FU, but 92 increased over time, reaching normal level for age in 57.8% patients and level compatible with 93 partial IgA deficiency in 21.1% at last FU. Serum IgM level was normal in most patients (69%), 94 and high in only 3 of them, at last FU. Data on specific vaccination response was available for a 95 subgroup of patients (n=32), showing a normal antibody response to tetanus toxoid, type B96 Haemophilus influenzae and conjugated pneumococcal vaccines in most of them (75.7%, 66.7%) 97 and 55.6% respectively). In some, evidence of antibody production after measles-mumps-rubella 98 vaccine was observed too. One patient had demonstrated good ability to mount adequate antibody 99 response to VZV infection. Among those with $FU \ge 2$ years, median CD40L expression on activated

- 100 CD4+ T cells was 49% in those who ceased immunoglobulin supplementation and 14.5% in those
 101 who still needed it.
- 102

103 Complications after HSCT

Infections represented the most common complication after transplant, occurring in 74.2% patients,
mostly of viral etiology (51.9% patients), although no association with acute GVHD was observed.
Bacterial and fungal infections were reported in 25.6% and 11.6% patients respectively (Table E9). *Cryptosporidium* infection was reported in 10.9% patients, significantly less after 2000 (7.6%,
p=0.0240).

Acute GVHD was reported in 45.2% patients after first HSCT, mostly of grade I/II (76.4% patients), involving skin only (40.4%) or with gut (21.1%). Liver GVHD associated with preexisting sclerosing cholangitis (61.5%). Severe acute GVHD (grade III/IV) was reported in 13 patients. Incidence of chronic GVHD was lower (3.9%), occurring in only 5 patients transplanted after 2000, extensive in 4.

- VOD was reported in 13.2% patients, and other liver/biliary complications in 10.1%. A significant
 improvement was observed after year 2000 (p=0.0178, p=0.0157 respectively Table E9).
 Pulmonary complications were uncommon (7% patients), and ventilator dependency during HSCT
 was reported in 3.6% cases only. Neurological complications were rare (3.1%, n=4), but were fatal
 for 2 patients.
- 119

120 Disease-free Survival

121 Disease-free survival (DFS) aimed to estimate disease cure, in terms of survival without 122 requirement for continuous immunoglobulin replacement ≥ 2 years after the last procedure. Overall, 123 DFS was 73.4% and 72.3% at 2 and 5 years respectively, stable over time. Notably, DFS improved 124 significantly since 2000 (78.7% and 77.1% at 2 and 5 years, vs 47.6% in patients receiving HSCT 125 before 1999, p = 0.0011 – Table III and data not shown).

- Among survivors that ceased immunoglobulin replacement ≥ 2 years after the last treatment, 10 received an additional procedure after the first HSCT (2nd HSCT n=6, 3rd HSCT n=1, boost n=3, DLI n=2). Age at HSCT ≥ 10 years and presence of organ damage, especially liver disease, sclerosing cholangitis and *Cryptosporidium* infection, were the most relevant variables to negatively influence DFS in patients transplanted after 2000 (Table III, Figure E2A-D). Patients' genotype did not have any impact on DFS.
- Conditioning regimen was more significant in influencing DFS as compared to OS, with better DFS
 when myeloablative regimens were used, instead of RIC (Table III, Figure E2E, Table E6). No role

- 134 for donor type or stem cell source emerged in DFS. A waiting time ≤ 2 years between diagnosis and
- 135 HSCT positively influenced DFS (Table III, Figure E2F).
- 136

137 OR References

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167 **OR Figure legends**

168

169 Figure E1. Busulfan (Bu) total dose in RIC versus MAC Bu/fludarabine (Flu) recipients. 170 Median Bu total dose (with range) administered in RIC versus MAC Bu/Flu recipients is shown to 171 support the breakpoint chosen between the 2 groups based upon the Bu total dose (mg/kg) reported 172 by the different centers, because no data about Bu pharmacokinetics (AUC) were available. This 173 cut-off was used for the classification between RIC and MAC categories only of conditioning 174 regimens containing Bu/Flu. Other conditioning regimens were included in the MAC category 175 based on other features (e.g. administration of Cyclophosphamide), not solely on Bu dose. Bu, 176 busulfan; Flu, fludarabine; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; MAC, myeloablative conditioning.

177

178 Figure E2. Variables influencing disease-free survival (DFS) in patients receiving first 179 hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) before/after 2000. (A) Age at HSCT. (B) 180 Organ damage before HSCT. (C) Sclerosing cholangitis. (D) Cryptosporidium infection before 181 HSCT. (E) Conditioning regimen. (F) Waiting time to HSCT from diagnosis. Under each graph, the 182 number of patients at risk at each follow up time point after HSCT is reported for all patient groups. 183 DFS curves of the different patients' groups are represented by solid or dashed lines. For each of 184 them, a specific label is reported nearby the corresponding curve. yrs, years; MAC, myeloablative 185 conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; RIC, reduced intensity 186 conditioning.

187

188 Figure E3. Influence of conditioning regimen (A) or donor type (B) on overall survival (OS) in 189 patients receiving first hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) before/after 2000. 190 Under each graph, the number of patients at risk at each follow up time point after HSCT is 191 reported for all patient groups. OS curves of the different patients' groups are represented by solid 192 or dashed lines. For each of them, a specific label is reported nearby the corresponding curve. 193 MAC, myeloablative conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; 194 RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; MSD, matched sibling donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; 195 MMFD, mismatched family donor; mmUCB, mismatched umbilical cord blood; MMUD, 196 mismatched unrelated donor; ad. vol., adult volunteer.

197

Figure E4. Causes of post-transplant deaths. Each cause of death is represented by a different color. The height of each colored bar in the graph is proportional to the number of patients who died for that specific cause. *One patient died for Aspergillum infection early after 2nd HSCT performed

201 for refractory autoimmune hemolytic anemia. °One patient did not reconstitute immunity after 202 HSCT with subsequent inability to control viral infections and steroid resistant-graft-versus-host 203 disease (GVHD), for which received anti-thymocyte globulin on day+34 and +36. §During 204 transplant infusion. MOF, multiple PML. organ failure; Progressive Multifocal 205 Leukoencephalopathy.

206

Figure E5. Lineage-specific chimerism at different time points after last procedure. Lineagespecific donor cell engraftment over time, represented by percentage (%) of subjects with different degree of donor cell chimerism in myeloid cells (CD15+ cells), T lymphocytes (CD3+ cells) and B lymphocytes (CD19+ cells) at different time points after last procedure. **% of subjects with available data. mo., months; yr., year; FU, follow up.

212

Figure E6. Myeloid chimerism over time in patients receiving different conditioning regimens. Myeloid cell chimerism, represented by percentage (%) of subjects with full donor, predominantly donor, predominantly recipient or full recipient chimerism, at different time points after first HSCT (A) and after last HSCT (B). **% of those with available data within the same conditioning group at the specified time point. HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; mo., months; FU, follow up.

Table E1 - Participating centers

Center	No. of patients	Country
Newcastle	17	UK
London GOSH	15	UK
Paris Necker (children)	12*	France
Brescia	6	Italy
Moscow	6	Russia
Prague	5	Czech Republic
Riyadh	5	Saudi Arabia
Lyon	4	France
Melbourne	4	Australia
Wroclaw (DCTK)	4	Poland
Copenaghen	3	Denmark
Dallas	3	USA
Gothenburg	3	Sweden
Leiden	3	The Netherlands
Nancy	3	France
Paris Necker (adults)	3	France
Philadelphia	3	USA
San Francisco	3	USA
Sydney	3	Australia
Ulm	3	Germany
Utrecht	3	The Netherlands
Zagreb	3	Croatia
Munich	2	Germany
Wroclaw	2	Poland
Ankara	1	Turkey
Barcelona V. Hebron	1	Spain
Budapest	1	Hungary
Columbia	1	USA
Cracow	1	Poland
Freiburg	1	Germany
Gent	1	Belgium
Leuven	1	Belgium
Marseille	1	France
Minneapolis	1	USA
Ohio	1	USA
Stockholm	1	Sweden

No., number; UK, United Kingdom; GOSH, Great Ormond Street Hospital; USA, United States of America. *1 additional 2nd transplant performed on a Lyon patient.

CD40L gene mutation	All patients (n=130)		HSCT uj (n=	p to 1999 24)	HSCT since 2000 (n=106)		
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	
Present	108	83.1	18	75	90	84.9	
Deletion	36	33.3	7	29.2	29	-27.4	
Missense	32	29.6	3	12.5	29	27.4	
Intronic	12	11.1	2	<i>8.3</i>	10	9.4	
Nonsense	4	3.7	0	0	4	3.8	
Insertion	3	2.8	0	0	3	2.8	
Other	5	4.6	1	4.2	4	3.8	
Not specified	16	14.8	5	20.8	11	10.4	
No mutation found	7	5.4	0	0	7	6.6	
Unknown	15	11.5	6	25	9	8.5	

Table E2 – CD40L gene mutations in the cohort of transplanted patients (n=130)

Tab	le E3-	A - Seco	nd transp	lants (n=13)								
	First HSCT					S	Second H	SCT	D. C.	Months	Outcome	
Pt. no.	Year	Stem cell source	Donor type	Conditioning regimen	Year	Stem cell source	Donor type	Conditioning regimen	Reason for 2 nd HSCT	between 1 st and 2 nd HSCT	(at last FU)	
8	2012	BM	MUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/ATG)	2014	BM	MUD	RIC (Bu/Flu/ATG)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	28.4	Alive (on IVIG)	
9	2012	PBSC (TCR αβ depletion)	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/ATG)	2013	PBSC (TCR αβ depletion)	MUD	NMA (TLI/Flu/Cy)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	8.0	Alive (OFF Ig)	
10	2009	PBSC	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/TT/ Alemtuzumab)	2012	PBSC	MUD	MAC (Bu/Flu/ATG)	Mixed chimerism	33.9	Alive (OFF Ig)	
25	2011	BM	MUD	MAC (Bu/Flu/ATG)	2012	PBSC (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MMFD	RIC (Cy-Mel-TT-ATG-Rtx)	Mixed chimerism	8.2	Alive (on IVIG)	
32	2010	BM	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/TT/ Alemtuzumab)	2011	BM	MUD	MAC (BU/Cy/ATG)	Refractory AIHA	9.9	Deceased	
33	2009	PBSC	MUD	NMA (Flu/ATG)	2010	PBSC	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/ATG)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	15.4	Alive (on IVIG)	
49 ^a	2001	BM (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MUD	MAC (BU/Cy/ATG)	2002	ВМ	MUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	12.5	Alive (OFF Ig)	
74	2014	BM	MUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/ Alemtuzumab)	2015	PBSC (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MUD	MAC (Bu/Flu/Cy)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	21.4	Alive (on IVIG)	
77 ^b	2004	PBSC	MMUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Flu/ATG)	2005	PBSC	MMUD	MAC low tox (Treo/Cy/ATG)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	10.9	Alive (OFF Ig)	
85	2003	BM	MSD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	2005	BM	MSD	MAC (Bu/Cy)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	21.1	Alive (OFF Ig)	
98	2007	UCB	MMUD	MAC (Bu/Cy/ATG)	2007	PBSC (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MMFD	RIC (Flu/TT/ATG)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	1.3	Alive (OFF Ig)	
107	2011	PBSC	MUD ^c	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	2012	NK	NK	MAC (Bu/Cy/Flu/ATG)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	3.3	Alive (OFF Ig)	
125	2003	UCB	MMUD	RIC (Bu/Flu/ATG)	2003	PBSC	NK	NMA (Flu/ATG)	1 st Graft failure/rejection	2	Deceased	

Table E3-A - Second transplants (n=13)

^a After 2nd HSCT, pt.49 received also a stem cell boost due to lack of donor T cells (see table E3-B). ^b After 2nd HSCT, pt.77 received also a third HSCT 31.1 months after the first HSCT and 20.2 months after the second HSCT [donor: MMUD, stem cell source: PBSC; conditioning regimen: MAC (Bu-Cy-ATG)].^c Number of HLA loci studied not specified.

HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; no., number; FU, follow up; BM, bone marrow; PBSC, peripheral blood stem cells; UCB, umbilical cord blood; MMUD, mismatched unrelated donor; MMFD, mismatched family donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MSD, matched sibling donor; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; NMA, non-myeloablative conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; AIHA, autoimmune hemolytic anemia; IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulins; Ig, immunoglobulins. NK, not known.

Table E3-B - Boosts (n=6)

Pt. no.	Year of 1 st HSCT	HSCT stem cell source	Donor	Conditioning regimen	Infections in the early FU*	Boost cell source and timing (months after last HSCT)	Reason for Top Up	Effect	Outcome (at last follow up)
48	1999	T cell- depleted BM (positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MMUD	MAC (Bu/Cy/ATG)	CVL infection	T cell-depleted BM (35.2)	Declining CD40L expression and slipping chimerism	Stable mixed chimerism and CD40L expression (even if low)	Alive (OFF Ig)
49	2001 (1 st) 2002 (2 nd)	BM (1 st HSCT T cell- depleted, 2 nd HSCT whole marrow)	MUD	1 st - MAC (Bu/Cy/ATG) 2 nd - RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	ADV, CVL infection	BM° (3.8)	Presence of donor chimerism in all cell lines, except for T cells	Successful donor T cell engraftment and CD40L expression	Alive (OFF Ig)
51	2004	BM	MUD	MAC (Bu/Cy/ATG)	CVL infection	Cryopreserved BM (20.7)	Slipping T-cell chimerism	Restarted IVIG – Stable engraftment and CD40L, but unable to make immunoglobulins	Alive (on IVIG)
60	1999	T cell- depleted BM (positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MUD	MAC (Bu/Cy/ATG)	ADV, Rotavirus, Astrovirus, UTI, CVL infection	BM (33.8)	Slipping chimerism in T and B cells and subsequently declining CD40L expression (failing graft)	Good immune reconstitution	Alive (OFF Ig)
92	2000	BM	MMUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	No	BM (20.6)	NK	NK	Alive (on IVIG)
102	1997	T cell- depleted BM	MUD	MAC (BU-Cy-ATG + in vivo LFA1 CD2)	Aspergillus, Gram - sepsis	BM (1.1)	1 st graft failure/rejection	Rejection	Deceased
* 6	t (months of								

* first 6 months after 1st HSCT.

° This boost was preceded by administration of Alemtuzumab between day-22 and day-18. No conditioning regimen was administered to other patients before cell boosts. HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; FU, follow up; BM, bone marrow; MMUD, mismatched unrelated donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; CVL, central venous line; CMV, cytomegalovirus; ADV, adenovirus; RSV, Respiratory Syncytial virus; UTI, urinary tract infection; IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulins; Ig, immunoglobulins. NA, not available; NK, not known.

Table E3-C - Donor lymphocyte infusions (DLI) (n=4)

Pt. no.	Year of 1 st HSCT	Stem cell source	Donor	Conditioning regimen	Infections in the early FU*	DLI infusions	Aim of infusion	Outcome (at last follow up)
20	2009	PBSC (Positive selection of CD34+ cells)	MMFD (haplo)	MAC low tox (Treo/Cy/Flu/ATG)	CMV reactivation	2, low dose (d+85, d+108)	 re-establishment of full donor chimerism delayed immune recovery clearance of CMV reactivation 	Alive (OFF Ig)
88	2009	PBSC	MUD°	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	ADV	3 (12 mo. FU)	- absent engraftment of donor T cells at FU +6 months after HSCT	Alive (OFF Ig)
91	2011	PBSC	MUD	RIC (Flu/Mel/Alemtuzumab)	ADV, RSV	NA (6 mo. FU)	- predominantly recipient chimerism at FU +6 months after HSCT	Alive (on IVIG)
127	2014	PBSC (TCR αβ depletion)	MUD	MAC low tox (Flu/Mel/Treo/ATG)	Enterocolitis, HSV, viral RTI	2 (d+153, d+195)	- absent immune recovery (almost absent T cells in PB)	Alive (OFF Ig)

* first 6 months after 1st HSCT; ^o nb of HLA loci studied not specified. Patient 20 was already reported in Jasinska A, *et al.* Pediatr Transplant 2013. HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; FU, follow up; PBSC, peripheral blood stem cells; MMFD, mismatched family donor; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; CMV, cytomegalovirus; ADV, adenovirus; RSV, Respiratory Syncytial virus; RTI, respiratory tract infection; IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulins; Ig, immunoglobulins. NA, not available.

Conditioning regimen		n 1^{st} tx. (2^{nd} / 3^{rd} tx.)	% 1 st tx. (2 nd /3 rd tx.)	
MAC		79 (5/1)	61.2 (38.5/100)	
	//	26(1)		
	+ ATG	22 (1/1)		
Dry/Cry	+ in vivo LFA-1+CD2	2	41.0 (15.4/100)	
- Bu/Cy	+ LFA-1/2	1	41.9 (15.4/100)	
	+ Alemtuzumab	2		
	+ ATG + in vivo LFA-1+CD2	1		
	//	1		
- Bu/Flu	+ ATG	14 (1)	14.7 (7.7)	
	+ Alemtuzumab	4	Y	
- Bu/Flu/Mel	+ ATG	1	0.8	
- Bu/Flu/Cy	//	1 (1)	23(154)	
Dui Tiu Cy	+ATG	2(1)	2.5 (15.4)	
- Bu/Cy/TBI	+ATG	1	0.8	
- TBI*/Cy	+ Alemtuzumab	1	0.8	
MAC low tox		21 (2)	16.3 (15.4)	
	//	1		
- Treo/Cy	+ ATG	0(1)	1.6 (7.7)	
	+ Alemtuzumab	1		
Troo/Elu	+ ATG	3 (1)	(2, (7, 7))	
- 11e0/Flu	+ Alemtuzumab	5	0.2 (7.7)	
$T_{T} \sim \langle F \rangle / T T$	+ATG	1	2.0	
- 1100/F10/11	+ Alemtuzumab	4	3.7	
- Treo/Flu/Cy	+ATG	1	0.8	
- Treo/Flu/Mel	+ ATG	3	2.3	
- Treo/Flu/Mel/Rtx	+ ATG	2	1.6	
RIC		27 (4)	20.9 (30.8)	
Elu/Mal	+ ATG	9	12 2 (7 7)	
- 11u/ Wet	+ Alemtuzumab	8 (1)	13.2 (7.7)	
Pu/Elu	+ ATG	4(1)		
- Bu/Flu	+ Alemtuzumab	2	4.7 (7.7)	
- Cy/Mel/TT/Rtx	+ ATG	0(1)	0 (7.7)	
- Flu/Cy/TBI°	+ ATG	1	0.8	
- Flu/TT	+ ATG	0(1)	0 (7.7)	
	+ ATG	1	0.8	
- F1u/Mei/11	+ Alemtuzumab	1	0.8	
- Bu/Flu/TT	+ ATG	1	0.8	
NMA		2 (2)	1.6 (15.4)	
- TLI/Flu/Cy	//	0(1)	0 (7.7)	
- Flu	+ ATG	1 (1)	0.8 (7.7)	
- Flu/Cy	+ Alemtuzumab + anti-CD45	1	0.8	

Table E4 – Conditioning regimens

Data about conditioning regimen are missing for one patient. Second HSCT n=13, third HSCT n=1. Tx., transplant; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; Bu, busulfan; Cy, cyclophosphamide; Flu, fludarabine; Mel, melphalan; TBI, total body irradiation; Treo, treosulfan; TT, thiotepa; Rtx, rituximab; TLI, total lymphoid irradiation; ATG, antithymocyte globulin; LFA1, lymphocyte function-associated antigen 1; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; NMA, non-myeloablative conditioning. No Bu pharmacokinetics (AUC) data were available. Bu-containing regimens were divided between MAC and RIC groups based on the total dose of Bu administered in case of combination with fludarabine (14.3-25.0 mg/kg in MAC, 4.0-13.6 mg/kg in RIC, see Figure E1 in the Online Repository). In the other cases, classification as MAC was based on other features (*e.g.* combination with Cyclophosphamide), not solely on Bu dose. *900 cGy; °200 cGy. Total TT dose in RIC was $\leq 10 \text{ mg/kg}$.

Table E5 – Ex vivo Graft Manipulation (total procedures = 150, DLI excluded)

Table E5 – Ex vivo	Graft Manipulation (total proceed	lures = 150, DLI ϵ	excluded)		
Graft Manipulation		BM (n=96) n	PBSC (n=42) n	UCB (n=10) n	Total (n=148)
- No manipulation		$\begin{array}{r} 67 \\ -1^{st} tx. \ 60 \\ -2^{nd} tx. \ 4 \\ -3^{rd} tx. \ 0 \\ -Boost \ 2 \end{array}$	26 - 1 st tx. 22 - 2 nd tx. 3 - 3 rd tx. 1 - Boost 0	8 (all 1 st tx.)	101 - 1 st tx. 91 - 2 nd tx. 7 - 3 rd tx. 1 - Boost 2
	- Positive selection of CD34+ cells	$ \begin{array}{r} 11 \\ -1^{st} tx. \ 10 \\ -2^{nd} tx. \ 0 \\ -Boost \ 1 \end{array} $	8 - 1^{st} tx. 5 - 2^{nd} tx. 3 - Boost 0	0	19 - 1 st tx. 15 - 2 nd tx. 3 - Boost 1
- T-cell depletion	- TCR αβ-depletion	0	$ \begin{array}{r} 6 \\ -1^{st} tx. 5 \\ -2^{nd} tx. 1 \end{array} $	0	6
	 - in vitro C1G (+RBC depletion) - other (C1M in vitro) - other (CD2+CD7+CD19+complemen) 	1 1 t) 1	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 1 1
- RBC depletion	- only	4 - 1 st tx. 3 - Boost 1	0	0	4 - 1 st tx. 3 - Boost 1
Plasma reduction	+ plasma reduction+ MNC enrichment (buffy coat)	2 1	0 0	0 0	2 1 4
- MNC enrichment	- Fycoll - Buffy coat	0 1	0 0	1 0	1 1
- Other		$ \begin{array}{r} 3 \\ -1^{st} tx. 2 \\ -2^{nd} tx. 0 \\ -Boost 1 \end{array} $	2 - 1 st tx. 1 - 2 nd tx. 1 - Boost 0	0	5 - 1 st tx. 3 - 2 nd tx. 1 - Boost 1
- Unknown		1 (1 boost)	0	1 (1 st tx)	2

Data about cell source are missing for n=2 procedures (one first and one second transplant). Where it is not specified, data refer to first transplants.

DLI, donor lymphocyte infusion; BM, bone marrow, PBSC, peripheral blood stem cell; UCB, umbilical cord blood; tx., transplant; TCR, T-cell receptor; C1G, Campath 1G; C1M, Campath 1M; RBC, red blood cells; MNC, mononuclear cells.

				p-value	
	Comp	arison	OS	EFS	DFS
	MAC	MAC low tox	0.9638	0.1071	1.000
All periods	MAC	RIC	0.3705	0.0024	0.1973
	MAC low tox	RIC	0.0374	0.1643	0.0302
	MAC	MAC low tox	0.9322	0.0088	0.7332
HSCT>2000	MAC	RIC	0.0258	<0.0001	0.0089
	MAC low tox	RIC	0.0197	0.13	0.0109

Table E6 – Pairwise comparison between different conditioning regimens and HSC	Г
outcome	

Reported p-values are adjusted for multiple comparisons. Significant p-values (p <0.05) are in bold. HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; OS, overall survival; EFS, event-free survival; DFS, disease-free survival.

	OS						EFS						DFS					
Variables	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU (%)	SE (%)	5 yrs FU (%)	SE (%)	p-value **	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU (%)	SE (%)	5 yrs FU (%)	SE (%)	p-value **	no. ev/ no. pts*	2 yrs FU (%)	SE (%)	5 yrs FU (%)	SE (%)	p-value **
Donor match (All periods)						0.0003						0.2615						0.0142
no mm	2/41	94.4 3	3.9	94.4	3.9		15/41	61.8	8.6	53.5	9.2		6/39	74.5	9.3	74.5	9.3	
1 mm	8/21	67.4	10.3	44.4	19.4		9/21	60.6	11.0	30.3	22.1		8/21	53.3	14.5	53.3	14.5	
>1 mm	2/3	33.3 2	27.2	33.3	27.2		3/3	0	§	0			2/3	33.3	27.2	33.3	27.2	
Donor match (HSCT>2000)						0.0209						0.7527						0.2383
no mm	2/38	93.8 4	4.2	93.8	4.2		13/38	61.0	9.1	56.3	9.5		5/37	77.5	9.3	77.5	9.3	
1 mm	4/16	81.2 9	9.8	40.6#	29.1		4/16	73.1	11.7	73.1	11.7		4/17	65.9	16.5	65.9	16.5	
>1 mm	2/3	33.3 2	27.2	33.3#	27.2		3/3	0	§	0			2/3	33.3	27.2	33.3	27.2	

Table E7 – OS, EFS and DFS in CD40L deficient-patients who received first HSCT from unrelated adult volunteers, according to the degree of match

EFS and OS were calculated from first HSCT, while DFS from the last procedure (i.e. second HSCT, boost or DLI), thus the analyses were performed considering the covariates at the proper procedure. * Number of patients with available data. ** p-value calculated not including the >1 mm subgroup, due to its very small size. § SE not estimable at this time point. °No subjects at risk at this time point. # This value should not be considered as reliable because of the too low number of subjects at risk in this subgroup at this FU time point. Significant p-values (p < 0.05) are in bold. Ev, events; pts, patients; SE, standard error; OS, overall survival; EFS, event-free survival; DFS, disease-free survival; yrs, years; FU, follow up; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; mm, mismatch.

Characteristic	HR	95% CI	p-value
Donor type			
MUD vs MSD	3.26	(0.95-11.2)	0.0607
MMFD+mmUCB and MMUD ad. vol. vs MSD	4.22	(1.27-14.05)	0.0189
Conditioning regimen:			
MAC low tox vs MAC	2.00	(0.76-5.23)	0.1602
RIC vs MAC	3.16	(1.10-9.08)	0.0323
Organ damage before HSCT: yes vs no	2.66	(0.82-8.64)	0.1036
Sclerosing cholangitis before HSCT: yes vs no	1.01	(0.24-4.25)	0.9885
Age at HSCT (years)	0.99	(0.91-1.08)	0.7737

Table E8 – Results of the Cox regression model on EFS

Legend: EFS, event-free survival; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; vs, versus; MUD, matched unrelated donor; MSD, matched sibling donor; MMFD, mismatched family donor; mmUCB, mismatched unrelated umbilical cord blood; MMUD, mismatched unrelated donor; ad. vol., adult volunteer; MAC, myeloablative conditioning; MAC low tox, myeloablative conditioning with low toxicity; RIC, reduced intensity conditioning; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Significant p-values (p < 0.05) are in bold.

Table E9 - Complications in the first 6 months after first HSCT

		All patients (n=130)		HSCT u (n=	p to 1999 =24)	HSCT si (n=	ince 2000 106)	p-value
Complication	Total*	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	
Acute GVHD - all grades - grade I-II - grade III-IV - grade not known	126	57 42 13 2	(45.2) (33.3) (10.3) (1.6)	12 6 6 0	(52.2) (26.1) (26.1) (0)	45 36 7 2	(43.7) (35.0) (6.8) (1.9)	0.6118 0.0787
Chronic GVHD -Extensive -Limited	128	5 4 1	(3.9) (3.1) (0.8)	0 0 0	(0.0) (0.0) (0.0)	5 4 1	(4.8) (3.8) (1.0)	0.5844 1.0000
Infections (all)	128	95	(74.2)	18	(75.0)	77	(74.0)	0.9227
Viral infections - all - CMV - Adenovirus - EBV - other	129 129 129 129 129	67 21 30 8 36	(51.9) (16.3) (23.3) (6.2) (27.9)	9 3 6 0 2	(37.5) (12.5) (25.0) (0.0) (8.3)	58 18 24 8 34	(55.2) (17.1) (22.9) (7.6) (32.4)	0.1166 0.7630 0.8226 0.3502 0.0178
Bacterial infections	129	33	(25.6)	5	(21.0)	28	(26.7)	0.7402
Fungal infections	129	15	(11.6)	6	(25.0)	9	(8.7)	0.0348
Cryptosporidium infection	129	14	(10.9)	6	(25.0)	8	(7.6)	0.0240
VOD	129	17	(13.2)	7	(29.2)	10	(9.5)	0.0178
Liver complications (other than VOD)	129	13	(10.1)	6	(25.0)	7	(6.7)	0.0157
Hemorrhagic Cystitis	129	5	(3.9)	1	(4.2)	4	(3.8)	1.0000
Autoimmune complications	128	6	(4.7)	1	(4.2)	5	(4.8)	1.0000
Need of ventilation during HSCT hospitalization	111	4	(3.6)	2	(11.8)	2	(2.1)	0.1103

* number of patients with datum available. Significant p-values (p <0.05) are in bold. CMV, Cytomegalovirus; EBV, Epstein-Barr Virus; GVHD, graft-versus-host-disease; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplant; VOD, veno-occlusive disease.

Figure E1 – Busulfan total dose in RIC versus MAC Bu/Flu recipients



Figure E2 – Disease-free Survival

(A) Age at HSCT



(E) Conditioning regimen



(B) Organ damage before HSCT



(D) Cryptosporidium infection



(F) Waiting time to HSCT



Figure E3 – OS according to conditioning regimen and donor type

(A) Conditioning regimen



(B) Donor type



Figure E4 – Causes of death





Figure E5 – Lineage-specific chimerism



Figure E6 – Myeloid chimerism and conditioning

