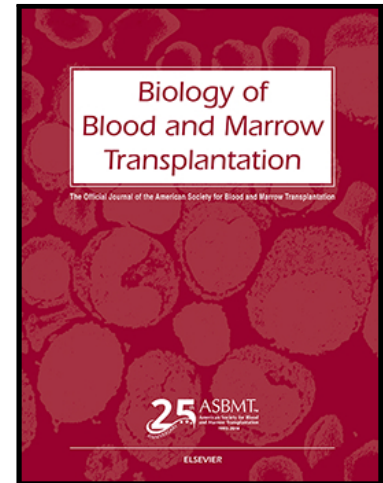# Accepted Manuscript

SINUSOIDAL OBSTRUCTION SYNDROME / VENO-OCCLUSIVE DISEASE AFTER AUTOLOGOUS OR ALLOGENEIC HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION IN CHILDREN: a retrospective study of the AIEOP-HSCT (Italian Hematology-Oncology Association-Hematopoietic Stem Cell transplantation) Group

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Please cite this article as: M. Faraci , A Bertaina , R. Luksch , E. Calore , E. Lanino , F. Saglio , A. Prete , MC. Menconi , G. De Simone , V. Tintori , S. Cesaro , S. Santarone , M.G. Orofino , F. Locatelli , M Zecca , SINUSOIDAL OBSTRUCTION SYNDROME / VENO-OCCLUSIVE DISEASE AFTER AUTOLOGOUS OR ALLOGENEIC HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION IN CHILDREN: a retrospective study of the AIEOP-HSCT (Italian Hematology-Oncology Association-Hematopoietic Stem Cell transplantation) Group , *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbmt.2018.09.027

HIGHLIGHTS

- In our cohort, the incidence of SOS/VOD was 2% and by applying the new pediatric EBMT criteria, all SOS/VOD were severe
- Age at HSCT <2 years, Bu, female gender, HLH increased risk of SOS/VOD
- The OS at 1 year was lower for patients with SOS/VOD
- The NRM at 1 and 5 years was higher in patients with SOS/VOD

SINUSOIDAL OBSTRUCTION SYNDROME / VENO-OCCLUSIVE DISEASE AFTER AUTOLOGOUS OR ALLOGENEIC HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION IN CHILDREN: a retrospective study of the AIEOP-HSCT (Italian Hematology-Oncology Association-Hematopoietic Stem Cell transplantation) Group.

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Short title: SOS/VOD in Italian children

Key word: Sinusoidal Obstruction Syndrome, children, diagnostic criteria, severity grading

ABSTRACT

Introduction. Sinusoidal obstruction syndrome (SOS), also known as veno-occlusive disease (VOD), is a potentially life-threatening complication that may develop after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). The aims of this retrospective multicenter study were to evaluate the incidence of SOS/VOD in a large cohort of children transplanted in centers across Italy applying the new EBMT criteria, and to analyze the risk factors underlying this complication.

Materials and Methods. We retrospectively reviewed data of pediatric HSCTs performed in 13 AIEOP-affiliated centers between January, 2000 and April, 2016. The new pediatric EBMT criteria were retrospectively applied for diagnoses of SOS/VOD and severity grading.

Results. Among 5,072 transplants considered at risk for SOS/VOD during the study period, 103 children (2%) developed SOS/VOD and the grade was severe or very severe in all patients. The median time of SOS/VOD occurrence was 17 days after HSCT (range 1-104 days). Sixty-nine patients (67%) were treated with Defibrotide® (DF) for a median time of 16 days (range 4-104). In multivariable analysis, age <2 years, use of busulfan during the conditioning regimen, female gender and hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis were risk factors statistically associated with the development of SOS/VOD. The overall mortality directly related to SOS/VOD was 15.5%. Overall survival (OS) at 1 year was worse in patients with SOS/VOD (p=0.0033), and this difference disappeared 5 years after HSCT. Non-relapse mortality was significantly higher 1 and 5 years after transplantation in patients who developed SOS/VOD (p<0.001).

Conclusion. Based on the application of new EBMT criteria, the overall incidence of SOS/VOD recorded in this large Italian pediatric retrospective study was 2%. Non-relapse mortality was significantly higher in patients who developed SOS/VOD. Identifying the risk factors associated with SOS/VOD can lead to more effective early treatment strategies of this potentially fatal HSCT complication in childhood.

INTRODUCTION

Sinusoidal obstruction syndrome (SOS), also known as veno-occlusive disease (VOD), is a potentially life-threatening complication that can develop after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). Known risk factors for SOS/VOD include: a) patient-associated risk factors, such as age, underlying disease, hepatic dysfunction, ferritin levels, genetic factors (GSTM1-null genotype), previous exposure to gentuzumab ozogamicin or inotuzumab; b) transplant-associated risk factors, such as type of HSCT (autologous or allogeneic), conditioning regimen (myeloablative with busulfan or total body irradiation), and Graft-versus-Host Disease (GvHD) prophylaxis (1). The use of different diagnostic criteria (like the Seattle or Baltimore criteria) (2-4) and the analysis of cohorts of patients with different characteristics explain the variable incidence of SOS/VOD reported so far, although, overall, the incidence in children is higher than in adults (20-30% vs. 9-14%, respectively) (5-1). The recent revision of the diagnostic criteria for SOS/VOD, proposed by the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) (5), focuses on new criteria for the diagnosis of SOS/VOD in children and adds to the criteria proposed for adults (6): i) no limitation for the time of onset of SOS/VOD; ii) unexplained platelet consumption and refractoriness to platelet transfusions; iii) weight gain on 3 consecutive days; iv) increase of bilirubin from baseline value over 3 consecutive days. Furthermore, the EBMT panel of experts proposed a scale to grade the severity of SOS/VOD in children, providing a useful tool that, once properly validated, could be used to predict outcome and to evaluate the effectiveness of different treatment approaches. Although mild or moderate SOS/VOD may resolve within a few weeks in most patients, the severe form is often associated with multi-organ dysfunction and high mortality rate (>80%) (3).

In order to evaluate the incidence of SOS/VOD in an Italian pediatric population receiving either autologous or allogeneic HSCT, we conducted a retrospective, multicenter study among the transplant centers affiliated with the Italian Association for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (Associazione Italiana di Ematologia e Oncologia Pediatrica, AIEOP). We describe the characteristics of patients who developed SOS/VOD, analyzing risk factors and transplant outcome.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We retrospectively reviewed all HSCTs performed in 13 (50%) out of 26 AIEOP centers between January, 2000 and April, 2016. All patients reported to the AIEOP-HSCT registry and those who developed SOS/VOD after either allogeneic or autologous HSCT were considered eligible for this study. Data were retrieved from the AIEOP-HSCT registry, which collects information on demographics, diagnosis, date and type of transplant, conditioning regimen, occurrence and grade of acute and chronic GvHD (a-GvHD, c-GvHD), toxicity, date and status at last follow-up. For the purposes of this study, the new EBMT criteria for diagnosis and grading for severity of pediatric SOS/VOD were retrospectively applied (5). To evaluate the occurrence of multi-organ dysfunction, respiratory failure was defined as the need for oxygen supplementation, while renal failure was defined as an elevation of serum creatinine greater than twice the value observed at start of the conditioning regimen.

For this study, each center was required to report all eligible patients in whom SOS/VOD was diagnosed. In case of SOS/VOD occurrence, further details were collected through ad hoc requests on the date of diagnosis, and clinical characteristics at diagnosis, including: transfusion-refractory thrombocytopenia (RT, defined as 1 weight-adjusted platelet substitution/day), weight gain, hepatomegaly, ascites, level of bilirubin, thickness of gallbladder walls, abnormalities of plasma coagulation factors (prothrombin time, activated partial thromboplastin time, antithrombin III, fibrinogen, D-dimer concentration). Additional data were also requested to evaluate the outcome of patients with SOS/VOD, such as transaminase and creatinine levels, occurrence of respiratory failure with/without pleural effusion and with/without need for respiratory assistance, presence of renal failure with/without need for dialysis, encephalopathy, admission in intensive care unit (ICU), possible hepatic biopsy, evolution to multi-organ failure (MOF). Type, dosage and timing of drugs used for prophylaxis (Defibrotide - DF, ursodeoxycholic acid - UCD) and treatment (DF, UCD, steroids, recombinant tissue plasminogen activator - rtPA, N acetylisteine) of SOS/VOD were also obtained. Before 2014, DF was administered only to patients enrolled in the pediatric prospective EBMT study (7) or as compassionate use; after 2014, the drug was approved by the

European Medicine Agency (EMA) for the treatment of severe SOS/VOD in many European countries.

The study was approved by the AIEOP-HSCT working group. All patients or their legal guardians had previously signed a consent allowing use of clinical data for research purposes.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Analysis used January 1st, 2017 as the reference date. Quantitative variables were reported as median value and range, while categorical variables were expressed as absolute value and percentage. Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients were compared using the Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables, while the Mann-Whitney rank sum test or the Student's t-test were used for continuous variables, as appropriate. Overall survival (OS) and event-free survival (EFS) were calculated according to the Kaplan-Meier method (8). The risk of death for causes unrelated to malignant progression, defined as non-relapse mortality (NRM) and that of developing SOS/VOD were calculated as cumulative incidences (CI) in order to adjust the analysis for competing risks (9). Comparisons between different OS and EFS probabilities were performed using the Log-Rank test (10), while Gray's test was used to assess, in univariable analyses, differences between cumulative incidences(10). Multivariable analysis was performed using logistic regression or the Cox proportional hazard regression model, as appropriate (10). All results were expressed as 5-year probabilities or 5-year cumulative incidences (%) and 95% confidence interval (95% CI). P values <0.05 were considered to be statistically significant. Statistical analysis was performed using NCSS [NCSS 10 Statistical Software (2015). NCSS, LLC. Kaysville, Utah, ncss.com/software/ncss.] and Stata MP/15 (StataCorp LP, 4905 Lakeway Drive, College Station, TX 77845 USA, www.stata.com).

RESULTS

Between January, 2000 and April, 2016, 5,072 transplants were performed in 4,021 patients. Eight hundred and seventy-one patients received additional transplants, either because of disease recurrence or as part of a specific treatment protocol. The characteristics of the 5,072 transplants

are shown in **Table 1**. During the study period, 103 children developed SOS/VOD, with a cumulative incidence of 2% (95% CI, 1.7-2.5) (Figure 1). The SOS/VOD cumulative incidence was lower in the 2000 – 2004 period [0.8% (95% CI 0,4-1.4)], increased between 2005 and 2009 [2.52% (95% CI, 1.8-35)], and remained stable in the period between 2010-2015 [2.54% (95% CI, 2.0-3.3)]. Among these patients, the 77.6% above 2 years of age developed SOS/VOD, the underlying diseases were malignant in 84 children (81.5%) and non malignant in the remaining 19 (18.5%). Forty-four children underwent autologous HSCT (42.6%), while 59 were given an allogeneic stem cell transplant from a matched unrelated donor in 30 cases (29%), a matched family donor in 19 (18.4%), and an haploidentical donor in 10 (10%). As a stem cell source, we employed bone marrow in 46 patients (44%), peripheral blood in 55 (54%), and cord blood in 2 children (2%) (Table 1).

Table 2 shows the symptoms of these 103 patients. The median time of SOS/VOD occurrence was 17 days after HSCT (range, 1-104 days; interquartile range, 11 days; 90th percentile, 29 days) (Figure 2). Fifty-three patients (62%) received intravenous (i.v.) busulfan (Bu), while 32 (38%) were given oral Bu. Applying the new EBMT criteria for grading the severity of SOS/VOD (4), all 103 children showed signs and symptoms of severe SOS/VOD and 36 (35%) of them had a very severe form. In particular, respiratory failure requiring invasive pulmonary ventilation occurred in 23 of the 103 patients (22%), and it was associated with renal insufficiency in 17 and with encephalopathy in 7. Very severe renal failure requiring dialysis occurred in 12 patients (12%), associated with encephalopathy in one case; isolated encephalopathy occurred in one child (1%). By applying the classical criteria (Seattle or Baltimore criteria) (2-4) to our patients with SOS/VOD, 17% of patients showed severe SOS/VOD, 28% had moderate forms, and 55% had mild SOS/VOD.

The results of univariable analysis of the risk factors for SOS/VOD are shown in Table 3. The univariable analysis showed that female gender, age at HSCT <2 years, diagnosis of HLH (hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis), neuroblastoma (NB) or thalassemia, the use of Bu or Melphalan (L-PAM) as part of the conditioning regimen, and Methotrexate (MTX) as part of the

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GvHD prophylaxis were associated with a higher incidence of SOS/VOD. Univariable analysis also showed that use of cord blood stem cells was associated with a lower risk of SOS/VOD.

No statistically significant difference in the CI of SOS/VOD was observed between allogeneic [2.27% (95% CI, 1.77-.292)] and autologous [1.79% (95%CI, 1.34-240)] HSCT (Grays test, p = 0.222).

In the multivariable logistic regression analysis, the following 4 variables remained independently associated with an increased risk of SOS/VOD: female gender [HR 1.62 (95% CI, 1.09-2.41); p=0.018], age at HSCT <2 years [HR 2.09 (95% CI, 1.40-3.11); p<0.001]; diagnosis of HLH [HR 2.81; (95% CI, 1.06-7.44); p=0.038] and use of Bu during the preparative regimen [HR 5.20 (95% CI, 2.97-9.09);p<0.001] **(see Table 4)**. The use of use of cord blood cells was confirmed to be associated with a lower risk of developing this complication also in multivariable analysis (see also **Table 4** for details).

An analysis of the data on the prophylaxis and treatment of SOS/VOD demonstrated that the prophylactic approach included DF (at dosage of 25 mg/Kg/day) and UCD (at median dosage of 10 mg/Kg/day), which were administered to 11 (11%) and 44 (43%) patients who developed severe/very severe SOD/VOD, respectively. The therapeutic agents given to patients with SOS/VOD included DF in 69 children (67%) (at a dose 25 mg/Kg/day for a median time of 16 days; range 4-104 days); UCD in 43 patients (42%) (in 19 given also as prophylaxis and in 24 administered only as therapy); corticosteroids in 39 (38%) (methylprednisolone at a dosage of 1 mg/Kg/day for a median time of 10 days; range 4-93 days); N-acetylcysteine in 28 children (27%), and rTPA in 8 children (8%) (at a median dosage of 0.2 mg/Kg/day). DF was started after a median of one day (range 0-14 days) after SOS/VOD diagnosis in 69 children (67%) and it was administered alone in 15 patients (22%), in association with steroids in 13 (19%), with UCD in 12 (17%), with N-acetylcysteine in 12 (17%), and with r-TPA in 3 (4%), while in the remaining 14 children (20%) DF was administered in combination with 2 or more of the previously reported agents.

Eighty-seven patients (84%) had complete resolution of SOS/VOD after a median of 15 days from the diagnosis (range 3-81 days). Resolution occurred in 80% of patients with a maximum bilirubin value ≥2 mg/dl and in 96% of those with a maximum bilirubin value <2mg/dl (anicteric SOS/VOD).

Sixteen of the 103 patients with SOS/VOD (16%), all of whom had very severe disease, died a median of 20.5 days (range, 3-75) after SOS/VOD diagnosis for MOF.

The overall survival probability (OS) at 1 year was 61% (95% CI, 51-71%) for patients with SOS/VOD vs. 77% (95% CI, 76-78%) for patients who did not develop SOS/VOD (p=0.0033), while the 5-year OS was 55% in both groups **(Figure 3).**

NRM was significantly higher [HR 2.12 (95% CI, 1.45-3.08); p<0.001] in patients with SOS/VOD as compared to those without VOD since the incidence of NRM was 22% vs 6% at 100 days, 30% vs 12% at 1 year, and 35% vs 23% at 5 years after HSCT (p<0.001) (**Figure 4**).

DISCUSSION

To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest retrospective study describing the incidence, risk factors, clinical characteristics, prophylaxis, treatment and outcome of SOS/VOD in children given either autologous or allogeneic HSCT (12-14). Among the 5,072 transplants performed between 2000 and 2016, in 13 pediatric Italian HSCT centers, SOS/VOD, defined according to the new EBMT criteria, was diagnosed in 2% of cases (n=103). No difference in the CI of SOS/VOD was observed among the different transplant centers (data not shown). Several studies have reported that that the incidence of SOS/VOD is higher in children than in adults (the relative risk ranging from 5.2 to 9.5) (1), most likely due to the immature hepatic metabolism in infancy and childhood (5). The retrospective use of EBMT criteria in our population may represent a represent a limit of our study because it is possible that patients with mild or moderate forms have not been included in the collection of SOS/VODs. Moreover with the improvement of supportive therapies, the changes in the conditioning regimens used during the most recent years, with the use of drugs with lower hepatic toxicity (treosulfan and fludarabine in 7% and 13% of children respectively), and the use of DF as prophylaxis in patients at risk (this data is not available) , may explain the low incidence of SOS/VOD in our population.

For the purpose of this study, we retrospectively applied the new EBMT pediatric criteria (5) to evaluate the best tool for the diagnosis and grading of the SOS/VOD. Based on the data reported to the AIEOP registry and after interrogating the centers participating into the study, to all the patients meeting the criteria for SOS/VOD were applied the new pediatric EBMT criteria and all resulted affected by a severe or very severe disease. Based on the data reported to the AIEOP registry, and after questioning the centers participating in the study, the new pediatric EBMT criteria were applied to all the patients meeting the criteria for SOS/VOD and all of them were found to be affected by severe or very severe disease. Remarkably, the incidence of severe/very severe SOS/VOD reported in this study is lower than the incidence of overall SOS/VOD reported in pediatric studies (13.2%-30%) (15-16). It has been reported that the incidence of severe SOS/VOD was 20% in children and 48% in adults (17-18).

By applying the new pediatric EBMT criteria, all patients with SOS/VOD matched with severe or very severe forms of this complication, while according to the Seattle and Baltimore criteria (2-4), only 17% of these children presented severe SOS/VOD disease. The less accurate diagnosis using the classical criteria of severe SOS/VOD and the better details of the new EBMT criteria of these forms, including many groups of symptoms/signs and laboratory abnormalities, could explain the difference in the incidence of severe forms observed in our experience with these two different classifications. We suggest that the classical criteria could overestimated the mild or moderate SOS/VOD diagnosis while with the new EBMT criteria are more detail in the identification of severe SOS/VOD that required a treatment.

Concerning the risk factors for SOS/VOD, some diseases have been reported to be associated with a higher risk of developing SOS/VOD, namely osteopetrosis (60%) (19), HLH (30%) (20), thalassemia (30-40%) (1) and NB (15-30%) (21). In our study, which enrolled a heterogeneous cohort of patients with both malignant (82%) and non-malignant diseases (18%), univariable analysis confirmed that patients affected by HLH, thalassemia and NB have an increased risk of SOS/VOD (hazard risk=2.81 for HLH, 1.86 for thalassemia, and 1.13 for NB, respectively). Notably, despite the use of a Bu based conditioning regimen, none of the 13 children affected by

osteopetrosis developed severe SOS/VOD. However, considering the very low number of patients affected by osteopetrosis in this cohort, no conclusions can be drawn.

Conversely, our data confirmed that females, children younger than 2 years of age, and a Bu-based conditioning regimen represent risk factors for SOS/VOD development, as already reported in other studies(1,12,14,15,16,22). No information about the Bu route of administration are collected in the AIEOP registry, so no information on the role of either oral or i.v. Bu can be obtained from our analysis. However, after contacting the participating centers, we were able to obtain data relative to children who developed SOS/VOD: 35 patients (34%) received oral Bu and 55 (66%) received i.v. Bu. Five out of 35 (14.2%) patients treated with oral Bu developed MOF, while 10 out of 55 patients treated with i.v. Bu (18.1%) had MOF. Notably, plasma Bu pharmacokinetic was evaluated in all patients.

Interestingly, the use of CB as a stem cell source was associated with a lower risk of SOS/VOD both in univariable and multivariable analysis. Considering the low number of patients who received CB cells (n=317) in our cohort as compared to those who received other stem cell sources (PBSC + BM = 4755), no definitive conclusion in the benefit of employing CB cells can be drawn.

Applying the new pediatric EBMT criteria for the diagnosis of SOS/VOD (5) to our cohort of patients we found that the median day of diagnosis of SOS/VOD was 17 days, but also that about 10% of cases occurred after day +30. Nonetheless, prospective studies are need to better understand whether the EBMT criteria may be helpful in making an early diagnosis.

Moreover, in our cohort, 27% of patients with SOS/VOD had no jaundice, confirming the higher frequency of anicteric SOS/VOD forms in children than in adults (23, 24). In addition, in our cohort, the development of thrombocytopenia refractory to platelet transfusions and of abnormalities of coagulation represented important and frequent findings in children with SOS/VOD (90.2% and 84.4% respectively, see also Table 2).

The overall mortality of patients with SOS/VOD was 39.8%, while that due to MOF in SOS/VOD patients was 15.5%. Both results are remarkably lower than the mortality (>80%) due to severe SOS/VOD described in the literature. A better knowledge of the disease, a more timely start of

treatment and, in the second period of the study, the availability of DF a drug shown to be able to rescue patients with SOS/VOD (25-29) may have contributed to the lower mortality rate observed in our study population.

The difference in both the early and late cumulative incidence of NRM between patients who either did or did not develop SOS/VOD was statistically significant (p<0.0001), suggesting that patients experiencing SOS/VOD are at greater risk of transplant-related fatalities, also due to the contribution of other types of post-transplant complications (such as GvHD, thrombotic microangiopathy-TAM) as a possible result of their fragility of endothelial cells. On the contrary, the apparently lower risk of relapse observed in the group of patients who experienced SOS/VOD could be probably explained by the very low number of patients still at risk at more than 2 years after HSCT (only 32 in the SOS/VOD group *vs*. 2203 in the non SOS/VOD group). The impact on 5 year OS of SOS/VOD was attenuated by other causes of treatment failure, mainly including recurrence of original disease in children with malignancies or other transplant-related early and late fatal toxicities. In this Italian multicenter pediatric study, DF was the most frequently used therapeutic agent (55%), followed by UCD (36%) and steroids (29%) (30). Due to the retrospective design of the study, and to the low number of patients who received DF as SOS/VOD prophylaxis, it is impossible to make any comparison on the efficacy of the different treatment modalities.

In conclusion, the results of this large pediatric, multicenter, retrospective study show that: a) using by the new EBMT pediatric criteria for the diagnosis and grading of SOS/VOD, the incidence of SOS/VOD observed in our study is lower (2%) than what was reported in previous studies; b) female gender, age < 2 years, a diagnosis of HLH and the use of Bu in the preparative regimen represent, in multivariable analysis, independent risk factors for the development of SOS/VOD; c) the cumulative incidence of NRM of patients who developed SOS/VOD is higher than that of patients who did not develop this complication; d) the mortality rate directly attributable to SOS/VOD was 15.5%.

Our findings may be used in the future to conduct prospective studies on this complication and on its treatment.

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TABLE 1. Patients' characteristics.

	N.	(% or range)
Number of analyzed transplants	5072	(100%)
Number of HSCTs		
First	4021	(79.3%)
Subsequent	1051	(20.7%)
Patient gender		
Male	3054	(60.2%)
Female	2018	(39.8%)
Patient's age at transplantation		
Median age (years)	8	(0.2 - 20)
< 2 years	573	(11.3%)
≥ 2 years	4499	(88.7%)
Diagnosis		
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia	961	(18.9%)
Acute myeloid leukemia	584	(11.5%)
Chronic myeloid leukemia	47	(0.9%)
Lymphoma	350	(6.9%)
Myelodysplastic syndrome	175	(3.4%)
Neuroblastoma	625	(12.4%)
Other solid tumors	1650	(32.6%)
Non-malignant	680	(13.4%)
Year of transplantation		
2000 - 2004	1421	(28.0%)
2005 - 2009	1431	(28.2%)
2010 - 2016	2220	(43.8%)
Type of transplant		
Autologous	2464	(48.5%)
Matched family donor	799	(15.8%)
Matched unrelated donor	1336	(26.4%)
Haploidentical family donor	473	(9.3%)
Stem cell source		
Bone marrow	1772	(34.9%)
Peripheral blood	2980	(58.7%)
Cord blood	346	(6.8%)
Conditioning regimen		
TBI-based	934	(18.4%)
Busulfan-based	1521	(29.9%)
Treosulfan-based	362	(7.2%)
Other Chemotherapy*	2039	(40.3%)
Missing	216	(4.2%)
GvHD prophylaxis		
CsA or Tacrolimus	453	(17.5%)
CsA or Tacrolimus + Steroids	39	(1.5%)
CsA or Tacrolimus + ATG	304	(11.8%)

CsA or Tacrolimus + MTX	1040	(39.5%)
CsA or Tacrolimus + MTX + ATG	299	(11.5%)
T cell depletion	329	(12.7%)
Other / Unknown	144	(5.5%)

Legend. HSCT=hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; CSA= cyclosporine; ATG= Anti-thymocyte globulin**;**MTX= methotrexate

* Thiotepa = 545; Thiotepa + Cyclophosphamide = 131; Thiotepa + Melphalan = 282; Thiotepa + Etoposide + Cyclophosphamide = 84; Thiotepa + Carboplatin = 55; Thiotepa + Fludarabine ± Cyclophosphamide or Melphalan = 92; Thiotepa + Fludarabine + Alemtuzumab = 3; Etoposide + Carboplatin ± Cyclophosphamide or Ifosfamide or Melphalan = 279; Fludarabine + Cyclophosphamide = 155; Melphalan = 145; Carmustine++Cytarabine+ Melphalan(BEAM) = 108; Cyclophosphamide ± ATG = 55; Cyclophosphamide ± Fludarabine or Melphalan = 43.

TABLE 2. Characteristics of SOS/VOD according to EBMT criteria

	Number (%)
EBMT criteria at diagnosis	
Transfusion-refractory thrombocytopenia	93(90.2%)
Weight gain on 3 consecutive days despite use of diuretic or weight gain > 5% above baseline value	93(90.3%)
Hepatomegaly above baseline value	71(69%)
Ascites	95(92.2%)
Rising bilirubin from a baseline value on 3 consecutive days or bilirubin ≥ 2mg/dl within 72 h	75(72.8%)
Median time of SOS/VOD after HSCT (days, range)	17 (1-104)
Additional criteria	
Thickness of gallbladder	70(68%)
Abnormalities of plasma coagulation	87(84.4%)
• PT/PTT abnormalities	73(84%)
• Decrease in Fibrinogen	12(13.7%)
• Increase in D-Dimer	41(47.1%)
• Deficiency of ATIII	54(62%)
Liver function test (alanine aminotransferase- ALT and aspartate aminotransferase- AST value)	
• ≤ 2 x normal	18(17.4%)
• >2 and ≤5 x normal	21(20.3%)
• >5	64(62.1%)
Liver Biopsy	2(1.9%)
Organ failure	
Respiratory failure	35(34%)
• Pleural effusion	38(36.8%)
• Need for respiratory assistance	23(22.3%)
Renal failure (creatinine value):	
• Within normal range	70(68%)
• <2 x normal	17(16.5%)
• >2	16(15.5%)
Need for dialysis	8(7.7%)
Encephalopathy	11(10.6%)
Multi-organ failure	16(15.5%)
N° pts admitted to the pediatric intensive unit care	20(19.4%)

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Table 3. Univariable analysis on variables associated with severe SOS/VOD development.

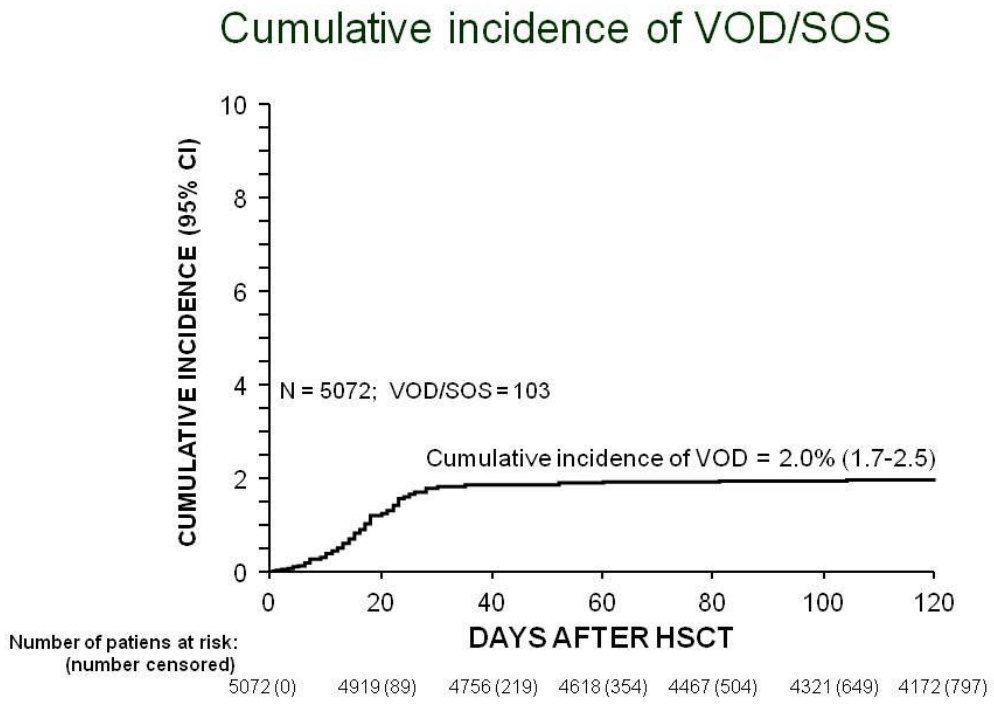|	N° pts	SOS/VOD	Cumulative incidence (95% CI)	P	Hazard ratio* (95% CI)	P
All transplants	5072	103	2.0% (1.7-2.5)			
Gender:						
Male	3054	51	1.7%(1.3-2.2)			
Female	2018	52	2.6% (2.0-3.4)	0.025	1.55 (1.05-2.28)	0.026
Age at HSCT:						
≥ 2 years	4499	80	1.8%(1.4-2.2)			
< 2 years	573	23	4.0%(2.7-6.0)	< 0.001	2.29 (1.44-3.64)	< 0.001
Diagnosis:						
Malignant	4392	84	1.9%(1.6-2.4)			
Non- malignant	690	19	2.8%(1.8-4.3)	0.124	1.48 (0.90-2.43)	0.126
Osteopetrosis	13	0	0%	0.603	0%- -	- -
HLH	66	5	7.6%(3.3-17.6)	0.001	3.97 (1.62-9.76)	0.003
JMML	65	1	1.6%(0.2-10.9)	0.783	0.76 (0.11-5.42)	0.783
Neuroblastoma	625	24	3.9% (2.6-5.7)	< 0.001	2.17 (1.38-3.43)	0.001
Thalassemia	150	9	6.0%(3.2-11.3)	< 0.001	3.23 (1.62-6.42)	0.001
Sickle cell disease	48	0	0.0%-	0.316	- -- -	- -
Number of transplant:						
first	4021	92	2.3%(1.9-2.8)			
subsequent	1051	11	1.1%(0.6-1.9)	0.012	0.46 (0.24-0.85)	0.014
Type of transplant:						
autologous	2464	44	1.8%(1.3-2.4)			
MFD	799	19	2.4%(1.5-3.7)		1.34 (0.78-2.29)	0.288
MUD	1336	30	2.3%(1.6-3.2)		1.26 (0.80-2.01)	0.322
Haploidentical	473	10	2.1%(1.2-3.9)	0.662	1.19 (0.60-2.37)	0.612
Disease status at transplant:						
Malignant in remission	2444	51	2.1%(1.6-2.8)			
Malignant not in remission	1938	33	1.7%(1.2-2.4)		0.81 (0.53-1.26)	0.354
Non-malignant	690	19	2.8%(1.8-4.3)	0.396	1.33 (0.79-2.26)	0.288
Stem cell source:						
Bone Marrow	1773	46	2.6%(2.0-3.5)			
Peripheral Blood	2982	55	1.9%(1.4-2.4)		0.71 (0.48-1.05)	0.084
Cord Blood	317	2	0.6%(0.2-2.5)	0.090	0.24 (0.06-1.00)	0.049
Conditioning regimen:						
Containing TBI	934	12	1.3% (0.7-2.3)	0.053	0.55 (0.30-1.02)	0.055
Containing Bu	1521	77	5.1% (4.1-6.3)	<0.001	6.61 (4.23-10.3)	<0.001
Containing Treo	362	3	0.8% (0.3-2.6)	0.008	0.37 (0.12-1.17)	0.092
Containing TT	1851	35	1.9%(1.4-2.6)	0.600	0.48 (0.32-1.03)	0.081
Containing Fluda	649	20	3.1%(2.0-4.8)	0.058	1.11 (0.68-1.81)	0.671
Containing Cy	1242	34	2.7%(2.0-3.8)	0.043	0.94 (0.62-1.41)	0.751
Containing LPAM	1424	56	3.0 (2.4-3.9)	< 0.001	1.95 (1.32-2.87)	0.001
Containing VP16	422	7	1.7%(0.8-3.5)	0.570	0.55 (0.25-1.18)	0.123
Containing ATG	564	16	2.9%(1.8-4.6)	0.145	0.99 (0.58-1.7)	0.992

* The first row and value of each variable was considered a reference value to estimate the hazard ratio.

Legend. HSCT= hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; HLH=hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis;JMML= Juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia; MFD= Matched family donor; MUD= Matched unrelated donor; TBI=total body irradiation; Bu=Busulfan; Treo=Treosulfan; TT=Thiotepa; Fluda=fludarabine; Cy=Cyclophosphamide; LPAM=Melphalan; VP16=Etoposide; , ATG= Anti-thymocyte globulin **;** CSA= cyclosporine;, MTX= methotrexate; Tac =tacrolimus
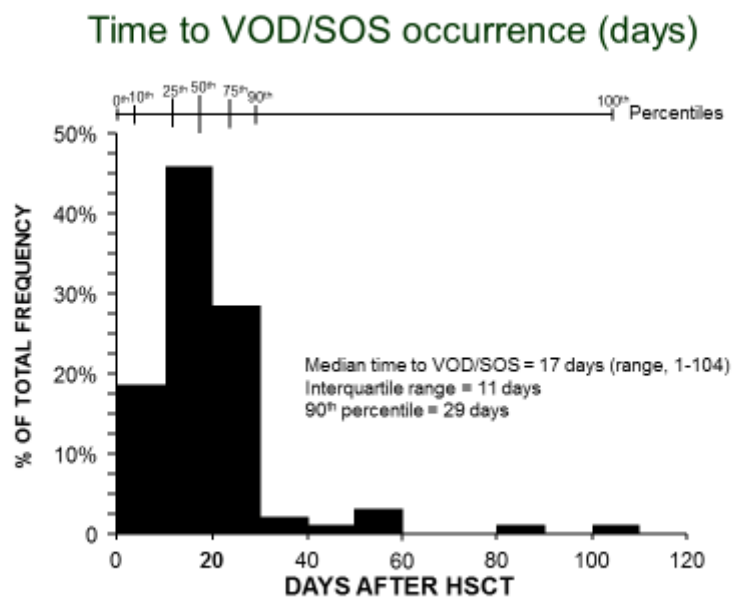
Table 4. Multivariable analysis of the risk of developing SOS/VOD.

	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P
Gender:		
female vs. male	1.62 (1.09-2.41)	0.018
Age at HSCT:		
< 2 years vs. ≥ 2 years	1.97 (1.32-2.94)	.001
Diagnosis:		
HLH vs. other	2.71 (1.03-7.08)	0.043
Neuroblastoma vs. other	1.39 (0.80-2.52)	0.240
Thalassemia vs. other	1.53(0.66-3.52)	0.322
Number of transplant:		
subsequent vs. first	1.03 (0.66-1.72)	0.929
Stem cell source:		
cord blood vs. other	0.21 (0.05-0.86)	0.030
Conditioning regimen:		
Busulfan vs. no Busulfan	5.37 (3.16-9.10)	< 0.001
Melphalan vs. no Melphalan	1.07 (0.65-1.77)	0.796
GvHD prophylaxis:		
Methotrexate vs. no Methotrexate	1.47 (0.93-2.31)	0.095

Figure 1. Cumulative incidence of VOD/SOS

Cumulative incidence of VOD/SOS

N = 5072; VOD/SOS = 103

Cumulative incidence of VOD = 2.0% (1.7-2.5)

Number of patiens at risk:
(number censored)

| 5072 (0) | 4919 (89) | 4756 (219) | 4618 (354) | 4467 (504) | 4321 (649) | 4172 (797) |

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Figure 2. Time to VOD/SOS occurrence (days)

Time to VOD/SOS occurrence (days)

Median time to VOD/SOS = 17 days (range, 1-104)
Interquartile range = 11 days
90th percentile = 29 days

Figure 3. Overall Survival of patients who either did or did not experience SOS/VOD

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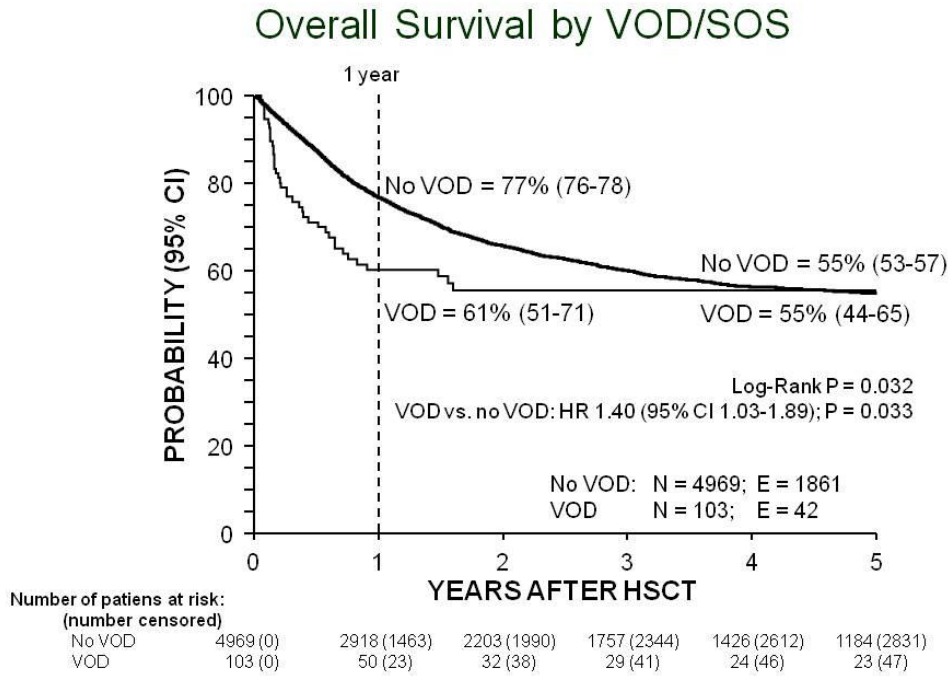
Figure 4. Cumulative incidence of non-relapse mortality in patients who either did or did not experience SOS/VOD

Non relapse mortality by VOD/SOS