Norwegian Man Effectively Cured of HIV After Stem Cell Transplant

Medicine · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What medical procedure has effectively cured a Norwegian man of HIV?

A) Gene therapy
B) Antiviral medication
C) Stem cell transplant
D) Blood transfusion

2. What genetic characteristic did the donor brother possess that was crucial for the HIV cure?

A) A mutation in the CCR2 gene
B) A rare, virus-blocking genetic mutation
C) High levels of antibodies
D) A compatible blood type

3. The Norwegian man is referred to by what nickname in medical literature?

A) The 'Berlin patient'
B) The 'London patient'
C) The 'Oslo patient'
D) The 'Geneva patient'

4. The stem cell transplant procedure is primarily an option for patients who also have what other condition?

A) Diabetes
B) Heart disease
C) Blood cancer
D) Kidney failure

5. What specific gene mutation is required in the donor to block HIV from entering the body's cells?

A) CCR2 gene mutation
B) CCR5 gene mutation
C) CXCR4 gene mutation
D) ABC1 gene mutation

6. Approximately what percentage of people in northern Europe have the necessary CCR5 gene mutation?

A) Less than 1%
B) Around 1%
C) Around 5%
D) More than 10%

7. When was the Norwegian patient diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome?

A) 2006
B) 2017
C) 2020
D) 2024

8. In what year did the stem cell transplant take place?

A) 2017
B) 2018
C) 2020
D) 2024

9. What was the reaction of the doctors upon discovering the brother's CCR5 mutation?

A) Disappointment
B) Concern
C) Stunned surprise
D) Indifference

10. The patient described the experience as 'winning the lottery twice'. Who added this quote?

A) The patient himself
B) Dr. Anders Eivind Myhre
C) Marius Troseid
D) Timothy Ray Brown

11. How long after the transplant did the patient stop taking anti-retroviral drugs?

A) One year
B) Two years
C) Three years
D) Four years

12. Researchers found no trace of the HIV virus in which of the patient's samples?

A) Blood and saliva
B) Blood, gut, and bone marrow
C) Urine and cerebrospinal fluid
D) Hair follicles and skin cells

13. Is the stem cell transplant procedure a feasible option for all people living with HIV worldwide?

A) Yes, it is widely available
B) No, it is too risky
C) No, it is only for those with blood cancer
D) Yes, with a simple blood test

14. What do researchers hope to achieve by studying these rare cases?

A) To develop new antiviral drugs
B) To find a cure for all HIV patients
C) To understand the progression of blood cancer
D) To identify more gene mutations

15. The Oslo patient is the first person to receive a transplant from whom in this context?

A) A matched unrelated donor
B) A family member
C) A chimpanzee
D) A synthetic organ

16. What happened to the patient's immune system after the transplant?

A) It was weakened
B) It remained unchanged
C) It was completely replaced by the donor's
D) It became resistant to all viruses

17. Who was the first person declared cured of HIV in 2008?

A) The 'Oslo patient'
B) Timothy Ray Brown
C) The 'next Berlin patient'
D) Anders Eivind Myhre

18. The 'next Berlin patient' entered long-term remission despite receiving a transplant that did not have what?

A) A compatible blood type
B) Two copies of the mutated gene
C) Sufficient stem cells
D) A high viral load

19. What is suggested about the Oslo patient's nickname, given his robust health?

A) It is still very fitting

B) It is no longer suitable

C) It needs to be updated to 'The Oslo survivor'

D) It is a source of pride

20. The patient has been living with HIV since which year?

A) 2006

B) 2008

C) 2017

D) 2020