France - France Greffe de Moelle Registry (ION-1804)

Update March 30 (3rd stage Covid-19 epidemic)

1- FGM Registry personnel

Since March 16, the whole personnel is working from home. International registries can continue to contact FGM registry as usual, by e-mails and/or using the dedicated cell phone number made available to each coordinator.

For any urgent situation, use the Emergency contact email and/or telephone:
emergency.fgm@biomedecine.fr
+33-6-88 22 35 28.

2- Search requests

FGM registry is accepting search requests from international registries as usual.

3- CT Process

FGM registry will temporarily stop providing blood samples at the VT stage for HLA typing and IDM testings.

When contacting donors, donor centers will check donor availability and perform the health history screening questionnaire, which now includes screening for COVID-19 exposure. If further HLA typing is necessary, it will be carried out at any moment prior and closest to the donation process.

4- Work-up requests

FGM registry will accept work-up requests as usual. All donors are asked about travel history, upcoming travel and exposure to COVID-19.

All donors involved in a donation process (work-up or collection) are exempt from shelter-in-place orders, allowing them to access collection related appointments.

Due to the epidemic situation in France leading to restricted access to the operating rooms, bone marrow collection cannot be performed from French donors until further notice. FGM registry recommends transplant centers to ask for PBSC collections.
Stem cell donation recommendations

Recommendations of the national health competent authorities (without prejudice to any other measures concerning other infectious agents):

- **For donor selection**: Donor’s medical history regarding SARS-CoV-2 exposure within 28 days must be checked by a screening questionnaire.

- **For donor qualification**: In emergency situations which would not allow postponement, the donor biological eligibility is carried out by testing the donor for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by gene amplification (RT-PCR) on a naso-pharyngeal swab and, if possible, on a blood sample (whole blood, serum or plasma). The results must be transmitted to the transplant team as soon as possible.
  
  - All donors will be tested prior to collection, before the start of GCSF stimulation and also on the day of donation.
  - Donors are asked to follow safety hygiene measures and to respect social isolation before collection and will be followed-up after the donation in order to check any symptoms of Covid-19.
  - In donors having experienced documented SARS-CoV-2 infection, the collection can be possible 28 days after the resolution of symptoms.

5- **Transport of HPC collected from French donors or international donors**


- We currently maintain the supply of blood stem cell products from foreign donors to French patients and from French donors to international patients through any available transport options, in close collaboration with our regular transport companies.

- Because of the current state of travel and concerns, and in accordance with EBMT and national transplant society guidelines, we recommend all transplant centers to **cryopreserve** upon reception all unrelated donor product prior to initiation of patient conditioning. This recommendation is submitted to evolution according to the epidemic situation.