



Autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for MS patients


KAROLINSKA
University Hospital

CENTRE OF SWEDISH MEDICAL EXCELLENCE

Stockholm Care, owned by the Stockholm County Council, is the coordinating link between the international community and medical services of excellence in the Stockholm region.

For decades Sweden and Swedish healthcare has consistently been ranked among the top three countries in the world while keeping costs at OECD average. Two strong indicators are probability of five-year survival after cancer and prevalence of MRSA, which means patients run a much lower risk of contracting multi-resistant bacteria in Swedish hospitals than elsewhere.

An academic health care system including research and education of the highest international quality is established with a close strategic partnership between Karolinska University Hospital and world-respected Karolinska Institute. Together we lead in development and medical breakthroughs.

*Karolinska University Hospital
is one of Europe's premier
health facilities*

Over decades Karolinska has earned extensive experience of performing autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) in treating leukemia and other severe hematology diseases.

For almost 10 years Karolinska started to offer their experience within autologous HSCT in treatment of relapsing remitting MS (RRMS), when other options have been proven insufficient or considered inappropriate.

The HSCT treatment can strongly lower the risk of future relapses and worsening condition¹. However, is important to acknowledge that the treatment is not curative, nor does it improve neurological dysfunctions that have become permanent.



1. The Swedish experience of HSCT has been published (Burman J et al, JNNP 2014;85:1116-21)

TREATMENT PROCESS

A devoted and efficient customer service team at Stockholm Care will manage the administrative aspects throughout the process allowing the patient and the medical expertise at Karolinska to have full focus on the medical treatment.

In conjunction with your treatment, the customer service team will help to arrange accommodation. If necessary, we will also arrange transport to and from the airport and between your accommodation and the hospital. We can also assist you with licensed interpreters during medical visit.

The full process will approximately take 3 month in total. The transplantation is the sole part where inpatient care will occur.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Karolinska is committed to deliver the best possible experience and clinical outcomes for our patients and will therefore apply the following guidelines for selection of patients:

- Relapsing-remitting type of MS with clinical signs of disease activity
- Mild to moderate permanent disability, normally less than EDSS 6.5, and with preserved cognitive functions
- Other disease modifying drugs have been tested or found inappropriate to use
- Relatively younger age, normally < 50 years
- Short disease duration, normally <10 years
- No severe concomitant diseases, such as certain chronic infections, heart disease, malignancy

1

Review of application

At Karolinska a neurologist will review the request for treatment based on the documentation that has been gathered.

1wk

2

Medical evaluation for treatment

The evaluation will be performed in Stockholm during two days. The test results together with an complete assessment will give the definitive decision if the patient will be offered the treatment.

4wk

3

Harvest of stem cells

Prior to transplantation three mandatory visits to the clinic for cytostatic, injections and harvested. The stem cells are preserved through a special freezing procedure which means the date for transplantation does not have not be fixed.

4wk

4

Transplantation

The transplant occurs through reinfusion. Patients generally remain in the hospital for two weeks to be monitored and to ensure a safe discharge.

3wk



PAYMENT AND AFTERCARE

Stockholm Care will manage the administration of the patient, including the payment, and the treatment will be conducted by Karolinska. The cost for the treatment is estimated on a case-by-case basis based on the input from the medical evaluation performed by doctors from Karolinska.

A plan for rehabilitation, after HSCT treatment, is often needed for successful results. In collaboration with Rehab Station Stockholm, Stockholm Care offers customized rehabilitation plan for patients after HSCT treatment. A medical report will be provided with instructions for the aftercare.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you wish to make a request for treatment, please fill in the application form on our website.

If you have any questions please send an email or phone. You can reach our Customer Service Managers Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (CET).

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