#### **Considerations for Medically Complex Patients**

Minnesota Representative Liz Reyer (Moderator)

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#### CHLOE BARNES: A PATIENT AND PARENT PERSPECTIVE

- Chloe was born July 12, 2008 and appeared happy and healthy
- After noticing some developmental delays, and despite pediatrician assurances that Chloe was within normal limits despite her motor delays, a second opinion was sought and Chloe was diagnosed with Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) in 2010
- MLD is a very rare, neurodegenerative genetic disorder that causes children to lose the ability to walk, talk, and interact with the world around them
- Chloe received a stem cell transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN on October 1,2010
- After a brave fight, Chloe lost her battle with MLD later that year



#### CHALLENGE: RECEIVING TIMELY DIAGNOSES

• Early diagnoses are vital when dealing with rare diseases



• The time it takes for an accurate diagnosis for rare diseases ranges from one year to up to ten

Source: 2020 Rare Diseases Health Care Access Study

- Many rare diseases, like MLD, progress rapidly and early intervention is key for treatment
- The cell and gene therapies that are expected to come to market over the next few years are only effective when used before the disease/condition progresses past a certain point



Gene Therapy for Neurologic Disease Access and Equity

> Paul Orchard, MD November 17, 2022

## Inherited Leukodystrophies are Rare Disorders

Rare Disease: <200,000 affected in USA

Cost to Society ~1 trillion/year

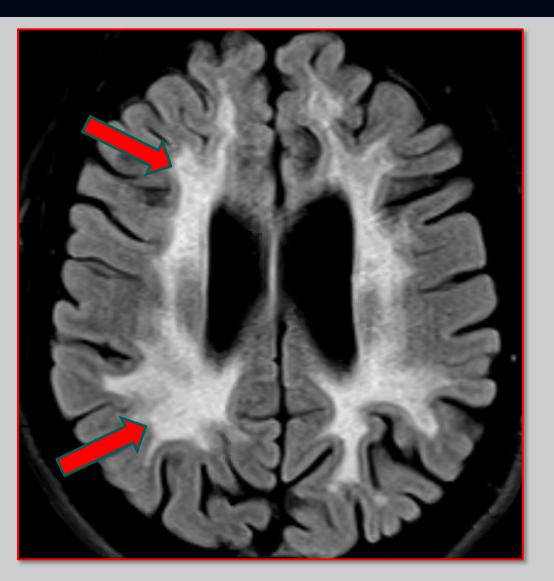
Rare Diseases (N >7000)

Inherited Leukodystrophies

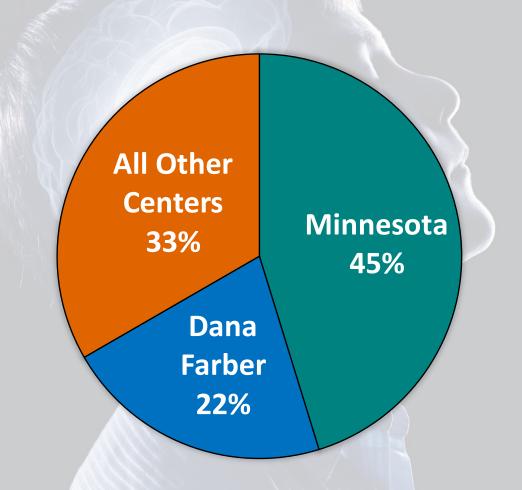
Metachromatic
leukodystrophy (MLD)
1:40,000 births
~100 cases/year in USA

# Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD)

- MLD affects white matter of the brain
- Due to an enzyme deficiency (arylsulfatase A; ARSA)
- Accumulates sulfatides, which damages nerves
- Progressive, debilitating and lethal



## Center Experience: Leukodystrophies



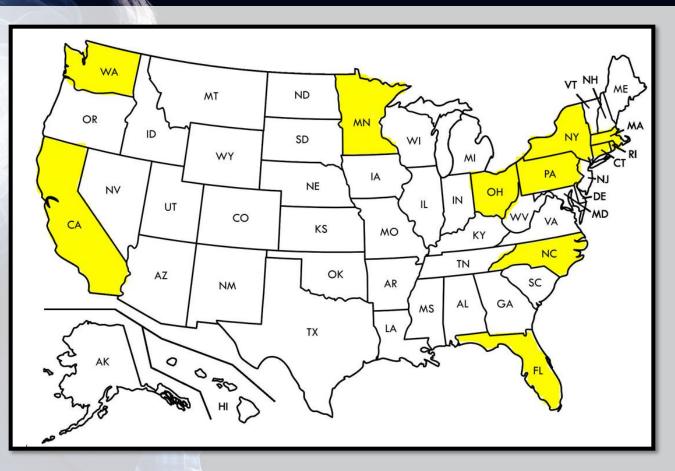
#### Listed Numbers of Transplants for Adrenoleukodystrophy

(2019-2020: Be the Match)

- 42 transplants overall (32 centers)
- 19 (45%) Univ. of Minnesota
- 9 (22%) Dana Farber
- 14 (33%) all other centers
  - Of these in all but one case one transplant/center

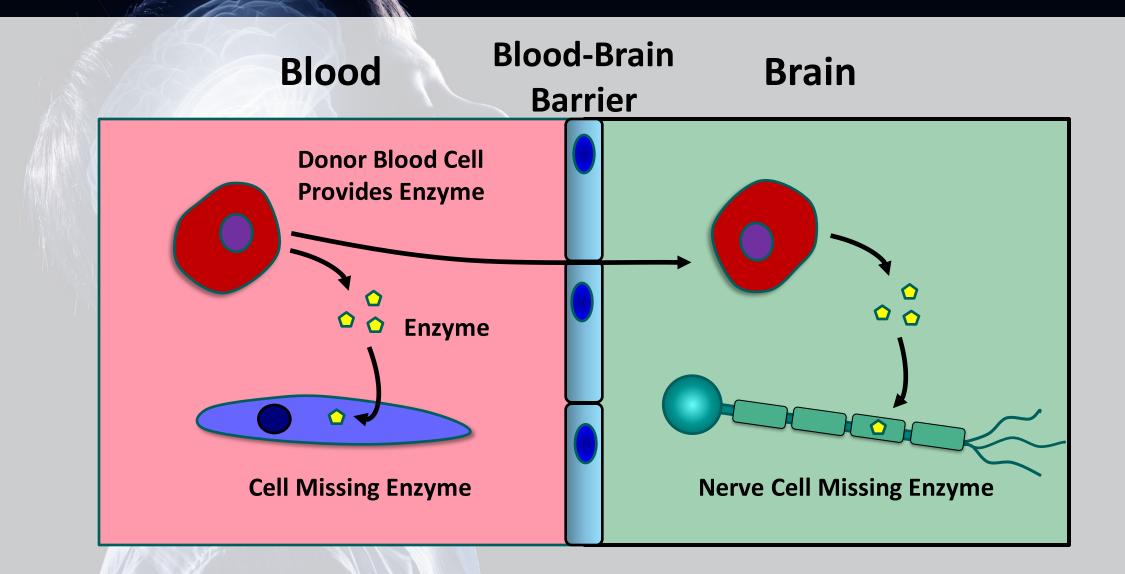
https://bethematch.org/tcdirectory/search/advanced/?d=12\_36&sp=false

### Center Experience: Leukodystrophies



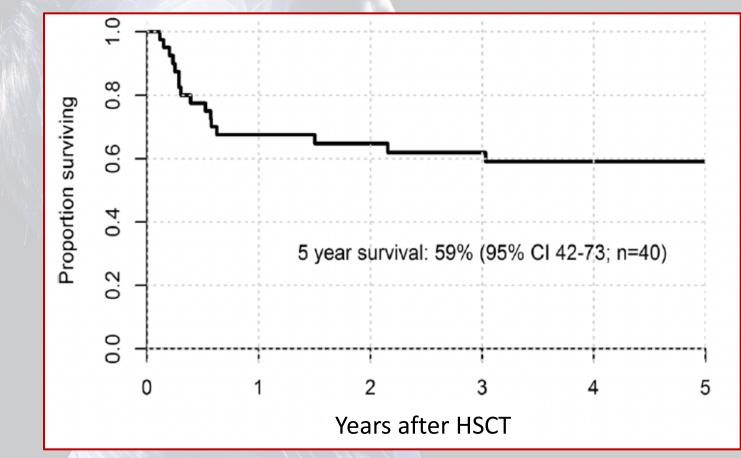
Geographically disbursed patients, limited treatment centers

## **Blood Stem Cell Transplantation**



# Outcomes: Blood Stem Cell Transplant for MLD

#### Minnesota Data: Largest experience in MLD



40% death rate 5 years after transplant

1. Transplant insufficient

2. Diagnosis too late

Boucher et al. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases (2015) 10:94

## MLD: Treatment with bone marrow transplant



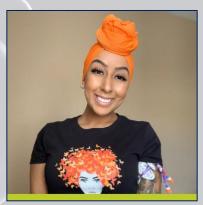
# Matched donor availability for transplant: varies by race/ethnicity



**29%** Black or African American



**47%** Asian or Pacific Islander





Hispanic or Latino





American Indian and Alaska Native

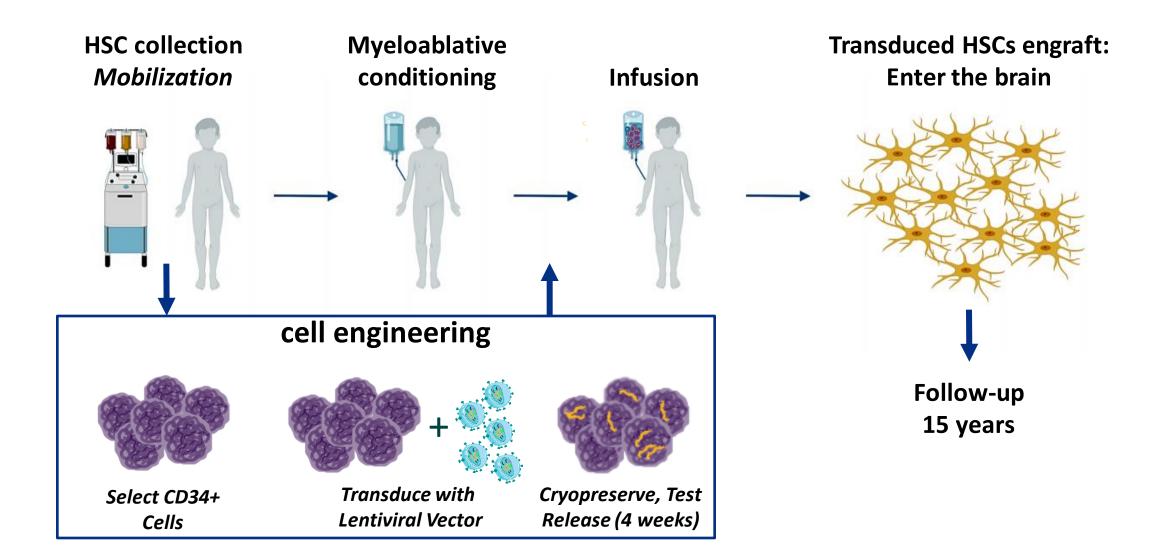


**79%** White

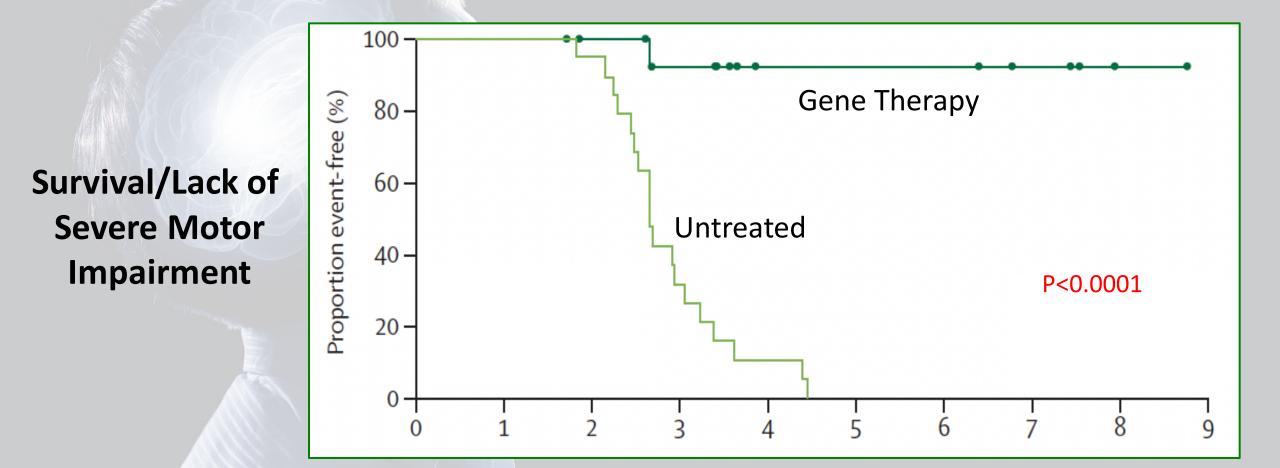
Equal Outcomes for ALL



## Lentiviral ex-vivo genetic engineering



## Survival Outcomes in MLD +/- Gene Tx



Fumagalli; Lancet 2022; 399: 372-83

# Gene Therapy vs. Bone Marrow Transplant

#### **1. Current Therapy:**

- The risks of BMT are high
- Availability of donors affects risk
- Race, ethnicity important in finding donors

#### 2. Effectiveness:

- May deliver more enzyme than BMT
- If so, may be more effective, and safer
- 3. Cost:
  - \$2.5 3M for gene therapy product
  - These are complex diseases, and to start there will be limited sites (3-4 in the USA)
  - Can we make access equitable?

