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Multipisciplinary (Nursing, Psychology, Physical therapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Oral Medicine, Social Services)
Neutrophil and platelet engraftment are not affected by nutritional status
in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplant

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The aim of this study was to analyze the association between pre-transplant nutritional status and engraftment time in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). Thirty-three patients were evaluated and stratified by body mass index (BMI). The mid-upper arm circumference, triceps skinfold thickness and the mid-upper arm muscle circumference were also evaluated. The underweight group (BMI<18.5) could not be included because only one patient was classified as underweight. The median time for granulocyte engraftment (>0.5 x 109/L) was 11 days for the obese and 14 days for the overweight and normal weight groups. The median platelet engraftment time (>20 x 109/L) was 15 days for the obese, 19 days for the overweight and 16.5 days for normal weight group. The median time to platelet engraftment was significantly higher in the overweight when compared to the obese group (P=0.009). Nevertheless, there was no significant correlation between BMI or anthropometric parameters and neutrophil or platelet engraftment time. This study demonstrates that neutrophil or platelet engraftment is not affected by nutritional status; however, it is negatively correlated to the number of CD34+ cells and positively correlated with the number of days of adjusted hospital length of stay, graft type (BM or PBSC) and transplant type (autologous or allogeneic).

Keywords: Body mass index; nutritional status; hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; arm anthropometry.