

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Graft-vs-Leukemia Effect

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Graft-vs-Leukemia Effect*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C18156.

an advantageous side-effect of a graft-vs-host reaction in which a leukemia patient is first irradiated to kill residual leukemic cells and is then given a bone marrow graft to replenish the immune system. If cytotoxic T cells are not depleted from the bone marrow graft, these alloreactive T cells can attack the host's cells (graft-vs-host reaction) but can also attack the host's residual leukemic cells, thereby assisting in preventing recurrence of disease.