

1 **TITLE:** Critical Illness Risk and Long-Term Outcomes Following Intensive Care in Pediatric  
2 Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Recipients

3 **AUTHORS:** Matt S. Zinter<sup>1,2</sup>, Ruta Brazauskas<sup>3</sup>, Joelle Strom<sup>3</sup>, Stella Chen<sup>3</sup>, Stephanie Bo-Subait<sup>3</sup>,  
4 Akshay Sharma<sup>4</sup>, Amer Beitinjaneh<sup>5</sup>, Dimana Dimitrova<sup>6</sup>, Greg Guilcher<sup>7</sup>, Jaime Preussler<sup>8</sup>, Kasiani  
5 Myers<sup>9</sup>, Neel S. Bhatt<sup>10</sup>, Olle Ringden<sup>11</sup>, Peiman Hematti<sup>3</sup>, Robert J. Hayashi<sup>12</sup>, Sagar Patel<sup>13</sup>, Satiro  
6 Nakamura De Oliveira<sup>14</sup>, Seth Rotz<sup>15</sup>, Sherif M. Badawy<sup>16</sup>, Taiga Nishihori<sup>17</sup>, David Buchbinder<sup>18</sup>, Betty  
7 Hamilton<sup>15</sup>, Bipin Savani<sup>19</sup>, H el ene Schoemans<sup>20</sup>, Mohamed Sorrow<sup>10</sup>, Lena Winestone<sup>2</sup>, Christine  
8 Duncan<sup>21</sup>, Rachel Phelan<sup>3</sup>, Christopher C. Dvorak<sup>2</sup>.

9 **AFFILIATIONS:**

10 <sup>1</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of California, San Francisco,  
11 San Francisco, CA, USA

12 <sup>2</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and BMT, University of California, San  
13 Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA

14 <sup>3</sup> Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA

15 <sup>4</sup> St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, USA

16 <sup>5</sup> University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA

17 <sup>6</sup> National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA

18 <sup>7</sup> Alberta Children's Hospital, Alberta, Canada

19 <sup>8</sup> National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match, Minneapolis, MN, USA

20 <sup>9</sup> Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH, USA

21 <sup>10</sup> Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA, USA

22 <sup>11</sup> Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge, The Netherlands

23 <sup>12</sup> Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA

24 <sup>13</sup> Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA

25 <sup>14</sup> University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA

26 <sup>15</sup> Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

27 <sup>16</sup> Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA

28 <sup>17</sup> Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, USA

29 <sup>18</sup> Children's Hospital of Orange County, Orange, CA, USA

30 <sup>19</sup> Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA

31 <sup>20</sup> University Hospital Gasthuisberg, Leuven, Belgium

32 <sup>21</sup> Dana Farber Cancer Center, Boston, MA, USA

33

34 **CONTACT:** Matt S Zinter, MD. 1700 4th St, Byers Hall 404, San Francisco, CA 94158,

35 [matt.zinter@ucsf.edu](mailto:matt.zinter@ucsf.edu)

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69 **ABSTRACT**

70 **Background:** Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) can be complicated by the  
71 development of organ toxicity and infection necessitating intensive care. Risk factors for intensive care  
72 admission are unclear due to heterogeneity across centers, and long-term outcome data after intensive  
73 care are sparse due to a historical paucity of survivors.

74 **Methods:** The Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) was queried  
75 to identify patients age  $\leq 21$  years who underwent a 1<sup>st</sup> allogeneic HCT between 2008-2014 in the United  
76 States or Canada. Records were cross-referenced with the Virtual Pediatric Systems pediatric ICU  
77 database to identify intensive care admissions. CIBMTR follow-up data were collected through the year  
78 2020.

79 **Results:** We identified 6,995 pediatric HCT patients from 69 HCT centers, of whom 1,067 required post-  
80 HCT intensive care. The cumulative incidence of PICU admission was 8.3% at day +100, 12.8% at 1  
81 year, and 15.3% at 5 years post HCT. PICU admission was linked to younger age, lower median zip code  
82 income, Black or multiracial background, pre-transplant organ toxicity, pre-transplant CMV  
83 seropositivity, use of umbilical cord blood and/or HLA-mismatched allografts, and the development of  
84 post-HCT graft-versus-host disease or malignancy relapse. Among PICU patients, survival to ICU  
85 discharge was 85.7% but more than half of ICU survivors were readmitted to a PICU during the study  
86 interval. Overall survival from the time of 1<sup>st</sup> PICU admission was 52.5% at 1 year and 42.6% at 5 years.  
87 Long-term post-ICU survival was worse among patients with malignant disease (particularly if relapsed),  
88 as well as those with poor pre-transplant organ function and alloreactivity risk-factors. In a landmark  
89 analysis of all 1-year HCT survivors, those who required intensive care in the first year had 10% lower  
90 survival at 5 years (77.1% vs. 87.0%,  $p < 0.001$ ) and developed new dialysis-dependent renal failure at a  
91 greater rate ( $p < 0.001$ ).

92 **Conclusions:** Intensive care management is common in pediatric HCT patients. Survival to ICU  
93 discharge is high, but ongoing complications necessitate recurrent ICU admission and lead to a poor 1-

94 year outcome in many patients. Together, these data suggest an ongoing burden of toxicity in pediatric  
95 HCT patients that continues to limit long-term survival.

## 96 **BACKGROUND**

97 Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) offers a potential cure to over thousands of children  
98 annually across the world, including those with high-risk leukemia, immunodeficiencies,  
99 hemoglobinopathies, and other life threatening disorders.<sup>1</sup> However, a key barrier to HCT success is the  
100 development of acute organ failure due to chemotherapeutic toxicity, radiation exposure, infection,  
101 genetic predisposition, and impaired or dysregulated immunity.<sup>2,3</sup> Children requiring intensive care unit  
102 (ICU) admission suffer >20% mortality, with rates exceeding 45% when intubation and mechanical  
103 ventilation are required.<sup>4-6</sup>

104 A prominent goal of transplant and intensive care physicians is to quickly and correctly identify high-risk  
105 patients to stop the advancement of critical illness and prevent irreversible organ failure.<sup>7</sup> This is  
106 predicated on compelling evidence indicating that organ failure can be modified by promptly recognizing  
107 and intervening in its early stages.<sup>8-11</sup> However, predicting who will require intensive care after HCT has  
108 been challenging due to relatively small patient numbers spread out across multiple institutions with  
109 varying intensive care unit (ICU) admission criteria. Specifically, HCT databases do not capture ICU  
110 transfer data and ICU databases do not rigorously phenotype HCT complexity, precluding deeper  
111 analyses of risk for critical illness.<sup>12</sup>

112 All major international HCT organizations recommend following all pediatric patients who undergo HCT  
113 for long-term cardiopulmonary, renal, and multiorgan toxicities as well as for neurodevelopmental  
114 outcomes and health-related quality of life.<sup>13-15</sup> These recommendations are even more crucial in light of  
115 estimates that the number of pediatric survivors of HCT doubled between 2009 and 2020, and will likely  
116 double again between 2020 and 2030 to reach an estimated 64,000 patients. However, while recent  
117 reports have shown improved survival to ICU discharge, long-term outcomes are lacking since ICU

118 databases do not typically follow patients past ICU discharge.<sup>4-6,16</sup> In one report of pediatric HCT  
119 patients who survived to pediatric ICU (PICU) discharge, survival at 1 year was 40% relative to 1-year  
120 survival of 65% in patients who never required PICU admission; this suggests an ongoing burden of  
121 chronic organ toxicity in these vulnerable patients.<sup>17</sup> Taken together, these data suggest that both short-  
122 and long-term outcomes for critically ill pediatric HCT patients remain suboptimal, and that the toxicity  
123 of HCT remains a major barrier to a disease-free childhood for many patients.<sup>18,19</sup>

124 To address ongoing knowledge gaps regarding risk-factors for critical illness and long-term outcomes, we  
125 merged records from two large research databases to determine the incidence of and risk-factors for post-  
126 HCT intensive care. We followed patients requiring PICU admission for a median of 5-years to  
127 determine long-term outcomes. To assess the burden of chronic toxicities, we also compared survival and  
128 organ dysfunction in 1-year transplant survivors according to a preceding need for intensive care in the  
129 first year.

130

## 131 **METHODS**

132 **Data Sources:** The Center For International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) is a  
133 research collaboration between the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match® and the Medical  
134 College of Wisconsin. It comprises over 450 transplant centers worldwide that contribute high-quality  
135 longitudinal data on consecutive allogeneic HCT patients. Participating centers contribute data about  
136 individual patients and their exposures and outcomes. CIBMTR data is collected and reported at two  
137 levels: Transplant Essential Data (TED) and Comprehensive Report Form (CRF). TED data include  
138 disease type, age, sex, pretransplant disease stage, and chemotherapy responsiveness, date of diagnosis,  
139 graft type, conditioning regimen, posttransplant disease progression and survival, development of a new  
140 malignancy, and cause of death. All CIBMTR centers contribute TED data. More detailed clinical  
141 information is collected via the CRF mechanism for a subset of randomly selected patients. Observational

142 studies conducted by the CIBMTR are performed in compliance with all applicable federal regulations  
143 pertaining to the protection of human research participants. The Virtual Pediatric Systems (VPS) database  
144 documents PICU admissions across over 140 pediatric hospitals predominantly in the United States and  
145 Canada. Admission characteristics, severity of illness scores, critical care interventions, and critical care-  
146 related diagnosis codes are documented by trained analysts at each site, with >95% inter-rater reliability.  
147 Patients are followed until hospital discharge.

148 The CIBMTR database was queried for patients who underwent first allogeneic HCT between 2008-2014  
149 at an age  $\leq 21$  years in the United States or Canada and were at a HCT site that also submitted data to  
150 VPS. Patients were excluded for allograft source other than bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical  
151 cord blood; syngeneic donor; lack of consent to use data; or lack of  $\geq 100$  days follow-up. Use of  
152 intensive care at any point after first allogeneic HCT was identified by matching records between  
153 CIBMTR and VPS databases as previously described.<sup>4</sup> To avoid analyzing low-risk patients, intensive  
154 care admissions designated as perioperative or scheduled (>12 hours notice) lasting <2 days were  
155 excluded. All PICU admission data were benchmarked to date of first allogeneic HCT since data on  
156 repeat allogeneic HCT could not be reliably differentiated from other cellular therapies (eg: donor  
157 lymphocyte infusion) in the CIBMTR database during this period of data collection. Patients admitted to  
158 an adult ICU were not included. Follow-up data were reported to CIBMTR and were abstracted for this  
159 study in the first quarter of 2020.

160 **Outcomes:** The primary outcomes were the need for intensive care and long-term mortality after intensive  
161 care. We performed a landmark analysis of all patients alive at transplant day +365 to determine if prior  
162 need for intensive care was associated with long-term morbidity and mortality. Approximately half of  
163 CIBMTR patients participated in the data-intensive CRF track; for these patients, the occurrence and start  
164 date of the following toxicities were collected: congestive heart failure; non-infectious pulmonary  
165 dysfunction (interstitial pneumonitis and other non-infectious pulmonary abnormalities including  
166 bronchiolitis obliterans, COP/BOOP, and diffuse alveolar hemorrhage); renal failure severe enough to

167 warrant dialysis; non-infectious liver toxicity (including sinusoidal obstruction syndrome, cirrhosis, and  
168 other); stroke/seizure; and diabetes/hyperglycemia. Clinical changes in each toxicity, such as worsening,  
169 improvement, or resolution, were not captured in CIBMTR.

170 **Covariates:** We considered variables in the following categories. **Demographics:** age at HCT, sex, race,  
171 ethnicity, insurance status, zip code median income, weight classification at HCT. **Pre-HCT:** disease,  
172 disease status prior to HCT (for malignancy only), HCT Comorbidity Index (HCT-CI), pre-HCT  
173 Lansky/Karnofsky, history of pre-HCT mechanical ventilation, history of pre-HCT invasive fungal  
174 infection. **HCT-related:** HCT center size, time from diagnosis to HCT (for malignancy only), graft  
175 source, donor type/match, allograft manipulation, donor/recipient blood types, donor/recipient CMV  
176 status, donor/recipient sex matching, conditioning regimen intensity, conditioning regimen serotherapy,  
177 GVHD prophylaxis regimen. **Post-HCT:** achievement of neutrophil engraftment, aGVHD grade,  
178 cGVHD grade, hematologic malignancy relapse. **ICU-related:** PICU center size (according to tertile of  
179 HCT patient PICU admission volume), age at PICU admission, weight category at PICU admission, time  
180 interval between HCT and at PICU admission, Pediatric Risk of Mortality Score-3 (PRISM-3); use of  
181 invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), non-invasive mechanical ventilation (NIV), or renal replacement  
182 therapy (RRT); and presence of Gram-positive, Gram-negative, viral, or fungal infection. The PRISM-3  
183 score ranges from 0 to 47 and is composed of 17 vital sign and laboratory derangements measured in the  
184 first 12 hours of PICU admission.<sup>20</sup>

185 **Statistical Approach:** Descriptive statistics were used to summarize patient characteristics. Cumulative  
186 incidence of being admitted to the intensive care unit was calculated with death being treated as  
187 competing risk. Cox proportional hazard model was used to identify factors associated with the need for  
188 intensive care. Stepwise model selection was used to identify predictors significantly associated with the  
189 outcome. Only variables significant at the 0.05 level were retained in the final model. Overall survival  
190 probabilities after intensive care admission were calculated using the Kaplan-Meier estimate. Cox  
191 proportional hazard regression with stepwise model selection was used to identify risk factor associated



192 with mortality among patients who were admitted to PICU. Covariates which were not known at baseline  
193 (e.g., aGVHD, cGVHD, relapse, use of invasive and non-invasive ventilation) were treated as time-  
194 dependent covariates. Next, we explored the difference in survival between patients who were admitted to  
195 PICU within 1 year after HCT and those who were not. Only patients surviving to Day +365 post HCT  
196 were included in this analysis. Survival after day +365 was estimated using Kaplan Meier curves and  
197 factors associated with overall mortality were assessed using Cox proportional hazard regression with  
198 stepwise model selection. The development of post-HCT organ toxicities among patients alive at day  
199 +365 was assessed in the CRF-track subset of patients using the cumulative incidence function. Nominal  
200 significance was considered at a p value <0.05.

201

## 202 **RESULTS**

203 **Patients:** The final cohort included 6,995 pediatric HCT patients from 69 HCT centers; 1,067 patients  
204 required critical care across 79 PICUs (**Figure 1a**). Baseline characteristics of included patients are listed  
205 in **Table 1** and **Supplemental Table 1**. The underlying reason for allogeneic HCT was malignancy in  
206 57%. Myeloablative conditioning chemotherapy was used in 73% of patients, including total body  
207 irradiation (TBI) in 35% of patients. HCT allografts were fully HLA-matched in 54% of patients and  
208 obtained most commonly from harvested bone marrow (57%). The largest third of HCT centers (n=23 out  
209 of 69) accounted for 67% of all 1<sup>st</sup> allogeneic transplants performed.

210 **Need for Intensive Care:** Following HCT, the cumulative incidence of PICU admission was 8.3% at day  
211 +100 (95% CI 7.7-9.0), 12.8% at 1 year (95% CI 12.0-13.6), and 15.3% at 5 years post HCT (95% CI  
212 14.5-16.2, **Figure 1b**).

213 Multivariable analysis with stepwise variable selection identified 15 risk-factors independently associated  
214 with the need for intensive care (**Figure 1c; Supplemental Table 2**). Among demographic factors,  
215 younger age, lower median ZIP code income, Black race (HR 1.33, 95% CI 1.11-1.59, p=0.002), multi-

216 racial background (HR 2.0, 95% CI 1.50-2.67,  $p < 0.001$ ), and non-Hispanic ethnicity were each associated  
217 with PICU admission. Pre-transplant organ toxicity was also associated with greater rates of PICU  
218 admission, as measured by an HCT-CI score of  $\geq 3$  (HR 1.26, 95% CI 1.06-1.49,  $p = 0.008$ ) or a history of  
219 mechanical ventilation (HR 1.49, 95% CI 1.24-1.79,  $p < 0.001$ ). Several transplant-related variables were  
220 associated with PICU admission, including transplantation at centers in the lowest tertile of transplant  
221 volume (HR 1.32, 95% CI 1.07-1.63,  $p = 0.009$ ), HCT for underlying inborn errors of metabolism (HR  
222 1.69, 95% CI 1.28-2.23,  $p < 0.001$ ), and recipient CMV positivity (HR 1.46, 95% CI 1.28-1.67,  $p < 0.001$ ).  
223 PICU admission was also associated with the use of umbilical cord blood allografts (HR 1.46, 95% CI  
224 1.18-1.81,  $p < 0.001$ ) and donors other than HLA-identical siblings (eg: partially matched unrelated donor  
225 HR 1.95, 95% CI 1.57-2.43,  $p < 0.001$ ). Finally, the development of post-transplant complications was  
226 strongly associated with subsequent PICU admission, including aGVHD grade 3-4 (HR 1.65, 95% CI  
227 1.28-2.14,  $p < 0.001$ ), extensive cGVHD (HR 1.80, 95% CI 1.43-2.28,  $p < 0.001$ ), and post-HCT relapse of  
228 malignancy (HR 6.26, 95% CI 5.00-7.84,  $p < 0.001$ ).

229 **Outcomes after Intensive Care Admission:** Characteristics of patients at the time of 1<sup>st</sup> PICU admission  
230 are listed in **Table 2**. The per-ICU admission survival rate was 85.7% with a median ICU LOS of 3 days  
231 (IQR 1-11). Whereas 14% died in the first ICU admission, 44% survived but required at least one  
232 additional PICU admission and 42% of patients survived and did not require PICU re-admission during  
233 the study interval. Using CIBMTR longitudinal data, patients were followed from the time of ICU  
234 admission to a median 73 months (range 3-147). The OS from the time of 1<sup>st</sup> PICU admission was 52.5%  
235 at 1 year (95% CI 49.5-55.5%), 44.4% at 3 years (95% CI 41.5-47.5%), and 42.6% at 5 years (95% CI  
236 39.6-45.6%, **Figure 2a, Supplemental Tables 3-4**).

237 On multivariable analysis, we identified 12 risk-factors independently associated with OS among those  
238 requiring intensive care (**Figure 2b, Supplemental Table 5**). Whereas several demographic factors such  
239 as age, race, and ethnicity were associated with the need for intensive care admission, once patients were  
240 admitted to the ICU, demographics and center size were not independently associated with post-ICU

241 survival. Whereas HCT for inborn errors of metabolism was associated with greater rates of ICU  
242 admission, among those admitted to the ICU, HCT for malignant disease was instead associated with  
243 worse long-term survival. This was particularly true of malignancy patients with relapsed disease at the  
244 time of transplant (HR 2.26, 95% CI 1.40-3.64,  $p<0.001$ ) or relapsed disease after HCT (HR 1.63, 95% CI  
245 1.23-2.17,  $p<0.001$ ). In addition to being risk-factors for ICU admission, pre-transplant organ toxicity  
246 (HCT-CI  $\geq 3$  HR 1.42, 95% CI 1.15-1.75,  $p<0.001$ ), use of UCB allografts (HR 1.41, 95% CI 1.08-1.83,  
247  $p=0.012$ ), and allograft donors other than HLA-identical siblings (eg: partially matched unrelated donor  
248 HR 1.93, 95% CI 1.45-2.57,  $p<0.001$ ) were each associated with worse post-ICU survival. Interestingly,  
249 although 29% of patients did not have neutrophil engraftment at the time of PICU admission, most of  
250 these patients achieved neutrophil engraftment during or after ICU stay, and neutrophil engraftment status  
251 at the time of PICU admission was not associated with post-ICU survival ( $p>0.05$ ). We considered that  
252 post-HCT complications may vary according to time post-HCT, with some complications appearing in  
253 the early neutropenic phase and others months later. In this analysis, we found that patients who required  
254 PICU admission after day +30 had worse long-term survival compared to those who required PICU in the  
255 first 30 days (i.e.: PICU admission 30-99 days post-HCT, HR 1.29, 95% CI 1.0-31.61,  $p=0.029$ ).

256 **Analysis of 1-year Survivors:** Among the subset of the cohort who were alive with follow-up at day  
257 +365 (n=5,353 patients), approximately 9% had required intensive care prior to day +365 (n=481). When  
258 these 1-year survivors were followed to 5 years post-HCT, the overall survival was approximately 10%  
259 lower among those who had required intensive care in the first year (77.1%, 95% CI 73.2-80.8% vs.  
260 87.0%, 95% CI 86.1-88%,  $p<0.001$ ), corresponding to a hazard ratio of 1.82 (95% CI 1.50-2.22,  $p<0.001$ ,  
261 **Figure 3a, Supplemental Table 6**). Cause-specific mortality among the subset with malignancy showed  
262 an approximately 4-fold excess burden of TRM by transplant year 5 in the PICU-exposed group relative  
263 to the PICU-unexposed (19.4%, 95% CI 14.1-25.2 vs. 5.6%, 95% CI 4.7-6.6,  $p<0.001$ , **Figure 3b**). In  
264 contrast, rates of relapse after 1 year were comparable regardless of PICU exposure (**Supplemental**  
265 **Tables 7-8**).

266 On multivariable analysis, the excess mortality after day +365 among PICU-exposed was most  
267 pronounced in those who required PICU after day +30. Specifically, PICU admission between HCT day  
268 30-99 (HR 1.89, 95% CI 1.27-2.82) or between HCT day 100-365 (HR 2.20, 95% CI 1.69-2.86,  $p<0.001$ )  
269 were associated with worse outcomes among 1-year survivors, whereas PICU admission in the first 30  
270 days post-HCT did not have excess mortality beyond non-PICU patients if alive at 1 year (HR 1.19, 95%  
271 CI 0.80-1.78,  $p=0.395$ ). This finding was robust to adjustment for several other factors, including pre-  
272 transplant illness severity (HCT-CI, Karnofsky score), transplant variables (recipient CMV+, malignant  
273 disease, use of PB or UCB allograft, allograft donor other than HLA-matched sibling), and post-HCT  
274 complications (development of cGVHD or relapse prior to one year; **Figure 4c, Supplemental Table 9**).

275 Organ toxicity data from CIBMTR were available on approximately half of the patients. Patients who  
276 required critical care in the first year post-HCT showed a greater prevalence of renal failure, diabetes,  
277 liver toxicity, stroke/seizure, and non-infectious pulmonary dysfunction at one-year post-HCT ( $p<0.001$ ),  
278 demonstrating the burden of illness persisted beyond the immediate PICU admission for some patients  
279 (**Supplemental Table 10**). Patients who required critical care in the first year post-HCT also showed  
280 significantly greater risk of developing new-onset renal failure after day +365 (increase of 4.9% in PICU-  
281 exposed vs. 1.6% in PICU non-exposed,  $p<0.001$ ; **Table 3**). We did not detect a differential increase in  
282 the development of diabetes, liver toxicity, stroke/seizure, or non-infectious pulmonary dysfunction after  
283 day +365 according to whether PICU was required in the first year, although we could not account for  
284 changes or progression in the severity of existing disease.

285

## 286 **DISCUSSION**

287 We report an approximately 15% cumulative incidence of intensive care admission within 5 years  
288 following pediatric HCT, with 85% survival to 1<sup>st</sup> ICU discharge and 52% survival at 1-year post-1<sup>st</sup> ICU  
289 admission. Importantly, ICU survivors alive at 1-year post-HCT still had worse long-term outcomes

290 including OS, TRM, and new dialysis-dependent renal failure when followed to 5 years post-HCT.  
291 Together, these data suggest an ongoing burden of toxicity in pediatric HCT patients that continues to  
292 limit long-term survival.

293 First, our report of approximately 8% cumulative incidence of PICU admission within the first 100 days  
294 and 15% by year 5 is less than other single-center reports citing 17-35%, which may be due to increased  
295 intensity of supportive care outside of the ICU, our exclusion of perioperative and planned ICU  
296 admissions, or other factors.<sup>21-23</sup> Of 69 transplant centers, the third of centers with the highest HCT  
297 volume (n=23 centers) accounted for approximately two-thirds of HCT volume and PICU admissions,  
298 demonstrating the regionalization of care of these high risk patients. Patients transplanted at a smaller  
299 center had increased adjusted risk of ICU admission. The risk for ICU admission associated with younger  
300 age and underlying inherited disorders of metabolism may be related to more challenging fluid and  
301 airway management in these patients and could be incorporated into patient counseling.<sup>24-26</sup> The  
302 identification of Black and multi-racial background and lower median ZIP code income as risk-factors for  
303 post-HCT PICU admission merits further investigation, although these factors were not associated with  
304 survival after PICU admission.<sup>27-30</sup> Finally, the impact of measures of pre-HCT organ toxicity (higher  
305 HCT-CI, history of mechanical ventilation) emphasizes the need to optimize organ function in HCT  
306 candidates and modify the approach to HCT to increase safety for medically frail patients. Interestingly,  
307 time to neutrophil engraftment was not associated with need for intensive care.

308 Of the patients who required intensive care, we identified a significant discrepancy between survival to  
309 ICU discharge (86%) and survival to 1-year post-ICU (53%). Previous reports have suggested ICU  
310 survival as low as 20-40%, precluding long-term analyses due to so few survivors.<sup>23,31-34</sup> Our data suggest  
311 that while survival to ICU discharge is contemporaneously feasible, nearly half of patients required  
312 subsequent ICU readmission during the study interval, which could be due to pre-existing medical frailty  
313 or ongoing problems such as alloreactivity or poor immune function. As such, survival with future ICU  
314 readmission was the most common outcome (44%), ahead of survival without future ICU admission

315 (42%) or ICU death (14%). Therefore, preservation of organ function during each episode of critical  
316 illness is crucial to optimizing survival in future episodes of critical illness.<sup>35</sup> Among ICU patients, those  
317 with malignant disease, particularly if relapsed going into or after HCT, were of particularly high risk for  
318 poor long-term survival due to the competing risks of relapse and TRM. The PRISM-3 score, a metric of  
319 multi-organ dysfunction measured in the first 12 hours of PICU transfer, was strongly associated with  
320 long-term outcomes independent of the need for mechanical ventilation or dialysis. While this reiterates  
321 that it is important to limit the extent and severity of organ dysfunction, it also indicates the importance of  
322 the timing of organ dysfunction relative to ICU care. Studies of early transfer prior to clinical  
323 decompensation have shown promising results in reducing adverse events.<sup>36,37</sup> Of note, although 26% of  
324 patients had not achieved neutrophil engraftment at the time of PICU transfer, this was not associated  
325 with worse mortality, and the majority (73%) went on to achieve neutrophil engraftment, suggesting that  
326 aggressive supportive care ought not be withheld from patients purely based on neutrophil engraftment  
327 status.<sup>38</sup>

328 Finally, in a landmark analysis of all HCT patients alive at day +365, we found that those who required  
329 intensive care in the first year had 10% greater absolute mortality when followed to 5 years post-HCT  
330 compared to patients who did not require intensive care in the first year, which was largely attributable to  
331 a 4-fold increased risk of TRM. Studies of long-term outcomes in critically ill children are sparse.  
332 *Duncan et al* previously showed worse 1-year outcomes in survivors of intensive care; our study extends  
333 these findings to 5-years and emphasizes the chronicity of many post-transplant complications.<sup>17</sup> This  
334 risk appeared highest in patients requiring PICU after day +30, again suggesting that transplant  
335 complications such as alloreactivity and poor immune function may bear worse prognosis whereas early  
336 toxicities related to neutropenia, engraftment, and early fluid overload may be more manageable.

337 Given the high overall survival among patients alive at day +365, we analyzed the incidence of specific  
338 organ toxicities, including development prior to and after day +365. As expected, patients who used  
339 intensive care in the first year and survived to day +365 had significantly greater rates of organ toxicity in

340 the first year. Whereas *Broglie et al* recently reported a 12% incidence of non-infectious pulmonary  
341 toxicity at 1-year in all pediatric recipients of HCT, our data suggest a much greater burden of  
342 approximately 23% at 1-year among those who survived critical illness.<sup>2</sup> As pulmonary function test  
343 (PFT) abnormalities may persist beyond 1-2 years post-HCT in many children, this highlights the need  
344 for special attention to follow-up among patients who required intensive care.<sup>3,39,40</sup> However, after 1-year,  
345 there was a relatively small proportion of patients who developed new non-infectious organ toxicities,  
346 ranging from 0.6-6%. Interestingly, those who required intensive care in the 1<sup>st</sup> year had a greater  
347 incidence of new-onset dialysis-dependent renal failure after day +365, which is consistent with recent  
348 reports and suggests a subset of patients with ongoing progression of AKI/chronic kidney disease  
349 pathobiology.<sup>41</sup> Efforts to monitor, mitigate, and address chronic toxicities of pediatric HCT should  
350 remain a priority for the field.

351 This is the largest reported cohort of critically ill pediatric HCT patients with high-quality follow-up to 5  
352 years post-intensive care. Nonetheless, several limitations warrant discussion. First, transplant and ICU  
353 practices may have changed since this cohort was merged; further efforts to streamline multi-database  
354 merging so as to deliver more contemporary data are needed. Second, repeat HCT could not be  
355 differentiated from donor lymphocyte infusion (DLI) in the CIBMTR database and therefore was not  
356 addressed. Third, CIBMTR organ toxicity fields are only reported for research-level participants, include  
357 somewhat broad categories, and identify the start point of a complication but do not indicate progression  
358 or resolution. Fourth, nearly 1,500 patients were excluded from CIBMTR use due to lack of consent,  
359 which might introduce selection bias. Fifth, time from first allogeneic HCT to first PICU admission  
360 ranged considerably, and the factors associated with early PICU admission (ie.: within 30 days) may be  
361 different than those associated with later PICU admission (i.e.: after day +100).

362

363 **CONCLUSION**

364 In summary, we report an approximately 15% cumulative incidence of intensive care admission within 5  
365 years after pediatric HCT, with 85% survival to 1<sup>st</sup> ICU discharge and 52% survival at 1-year post-1<sup>st</sup> ICU  
366 admission. Major risk factors for critical illness included measures of pre-HCT organ toxicity and  
367 predisposition to (or development of) post-HCT alloreactivity or malignancy relapse. ICU survivors alive  
368 at 1-year post-HCT had worse long-term outcomes including OS, TRM, and new dialysis-dependent renal  
369 failure when followed to 5 years post-HCT. However, accrual of other new organ toxicities was minimal  
370 among 1-year survivors. These data can be used for patient prognostication and should be targeted in  
371 future investigations focused on improving outcomes following pediatric allogeneic HCT.

372



373 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

374

375 **Figure 1:** (A) Inclusion/exclusion flow diagram. (B) Cumulative incidence of PICU admission after  
376 allogeneic HCT. (B) Factors independently associated with post-HCT PICU admission in multivariable  
377 competing risk-regression model.

378

379 **Figure 2:** (A) Kaplan Meier estimates of overall survival from the time of PICU admission for all patients  
380 (top left) and malignant vs. non-malignant patients (top middle). Cumulative incidence of treatment-  
381 related mortality (bottom left) and relapse (bottom middle) among patients transplanted for malignancy  
382 are also shown. (B) Factors independently associated with long-term survival from the time of PICU  
383 admission to last follow-up in multivariable Cox regression.

384

385 **Figure 3:** (A) Landmark analysis of only patients surviving to HCT day +365. Kaplan Meier estimates of  
386 overall survival from transplant day +365 for all patients (top left), those with malignant disease (top  
387 middle), and those with non-malignant disease (bottom left), stratified by need for intensive care in the  
388 first year post-HCT. Cumulative incidence of treatment-related mortality (bottom middle) among patients  
389 transplanted for malignancy is also shown. (B) Among those alive at HCT day +365, factors  
390 independently associated with long-term survival from transplant day +365 to last follow-up in  
391 multivariable Cox regression.

392

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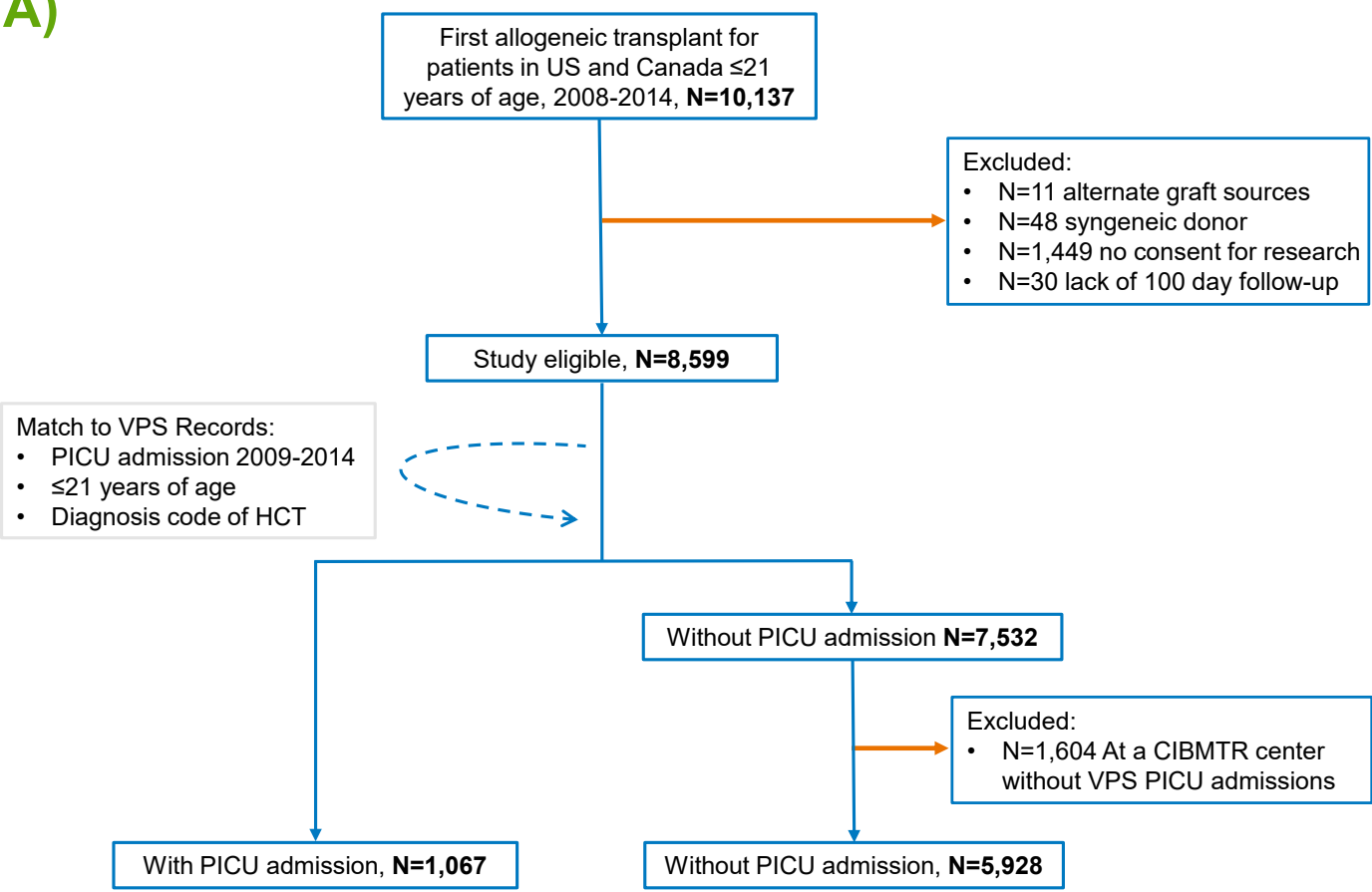
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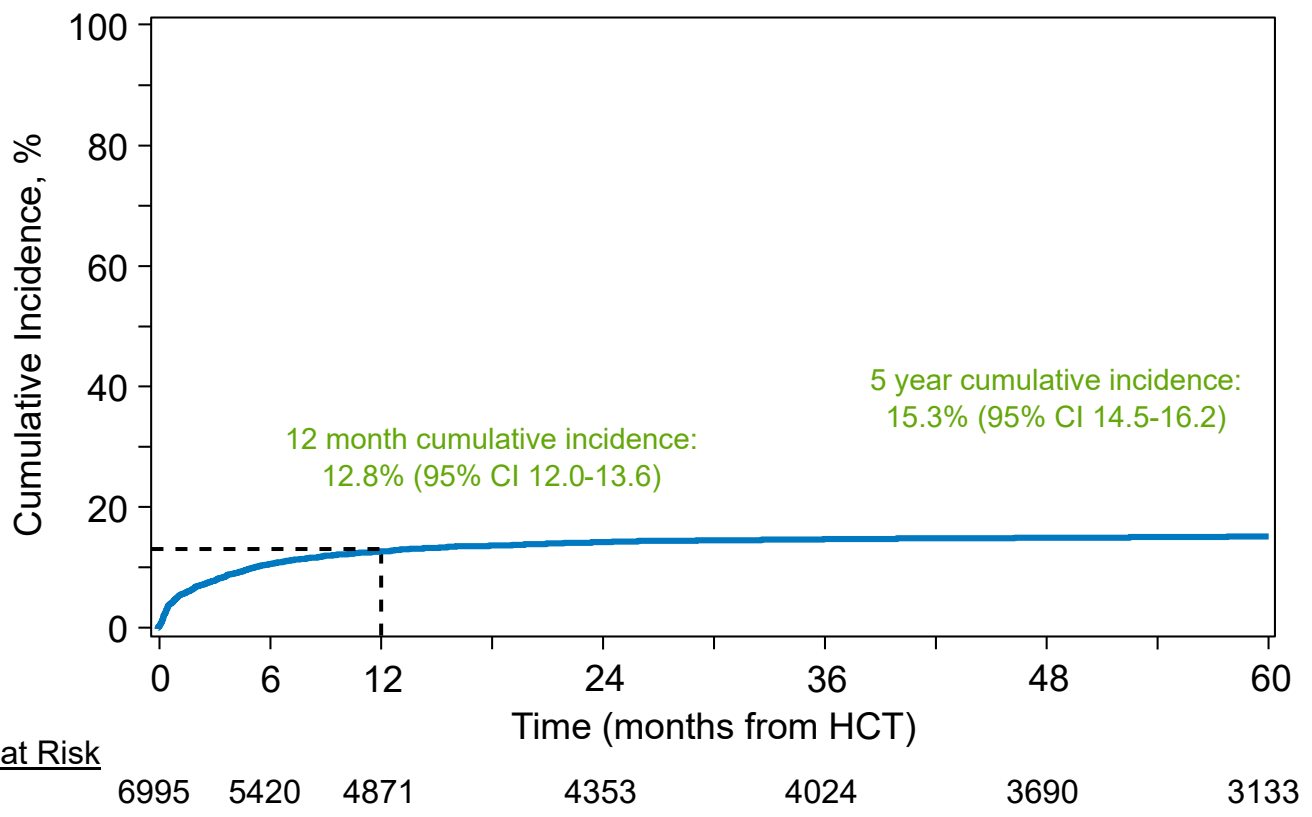


A)

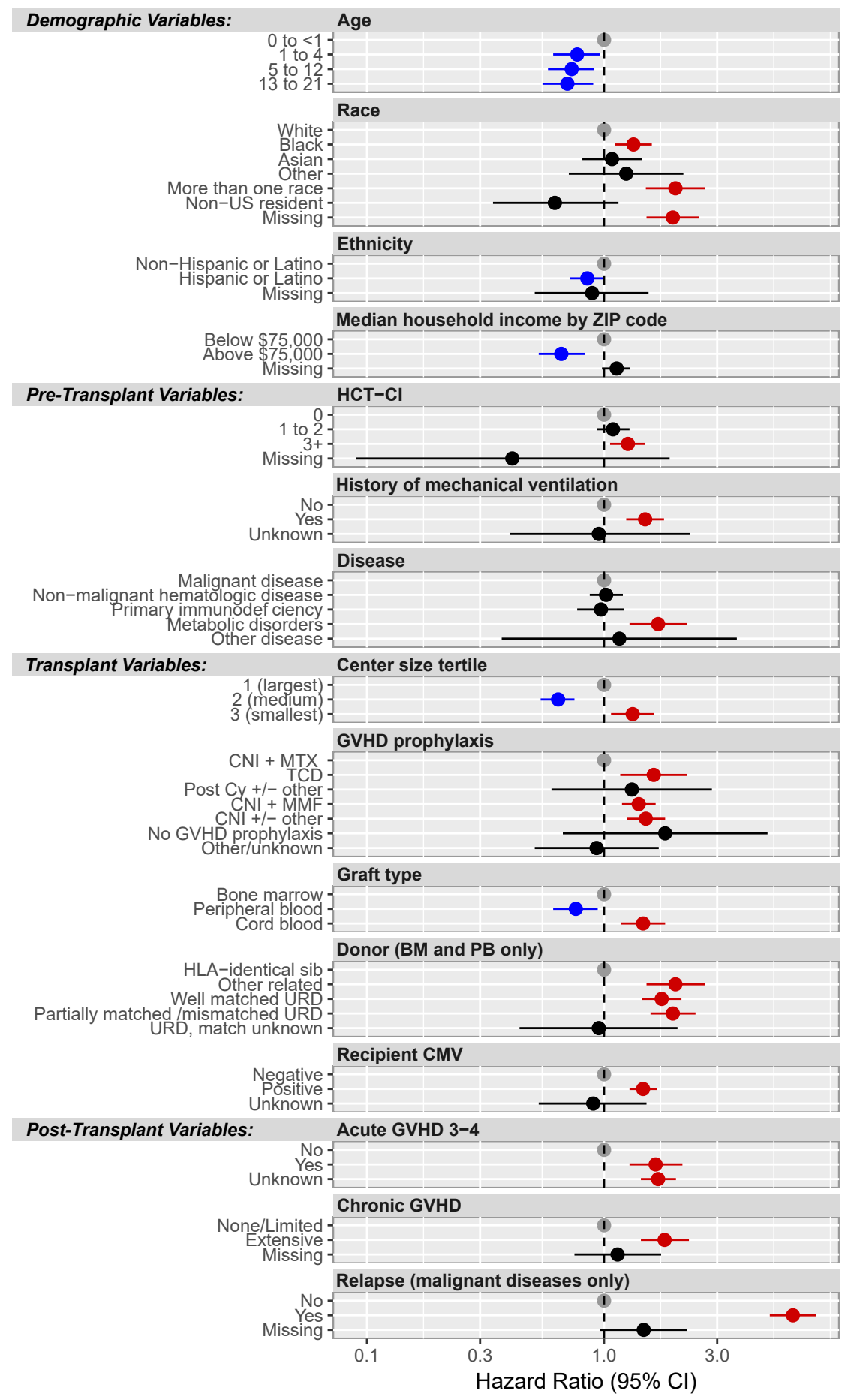


B)

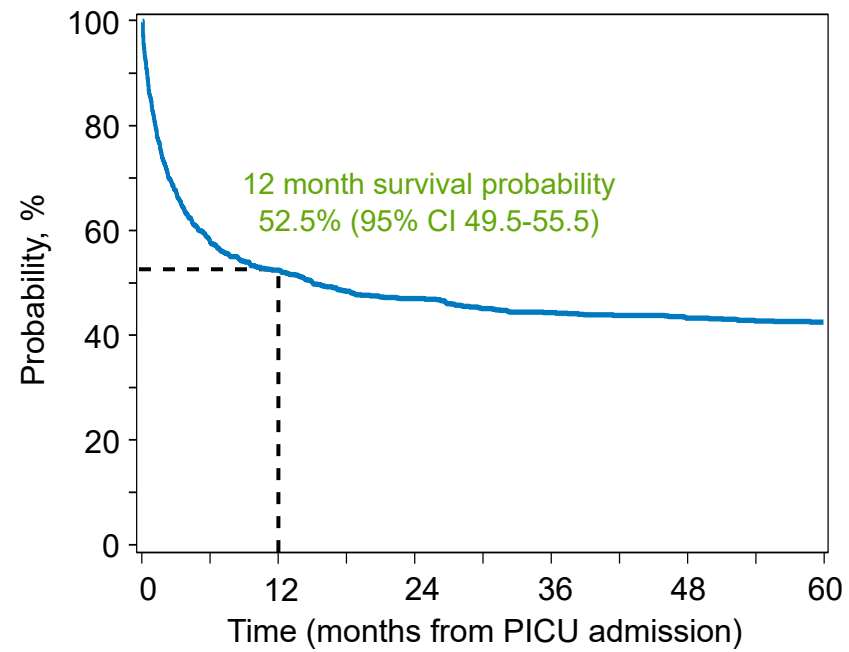
Cumulative Incidence of PICU Admission after Allogeneic HCT



C)



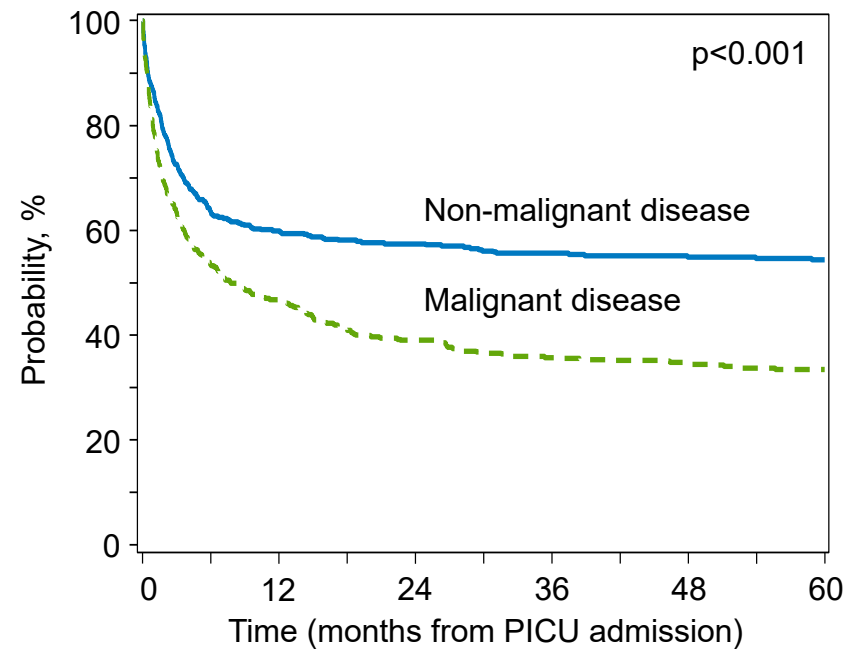
### A) Overall Survival of Patients Admitted to PICU



**N at Risk**

1067	551	484	444	406	328
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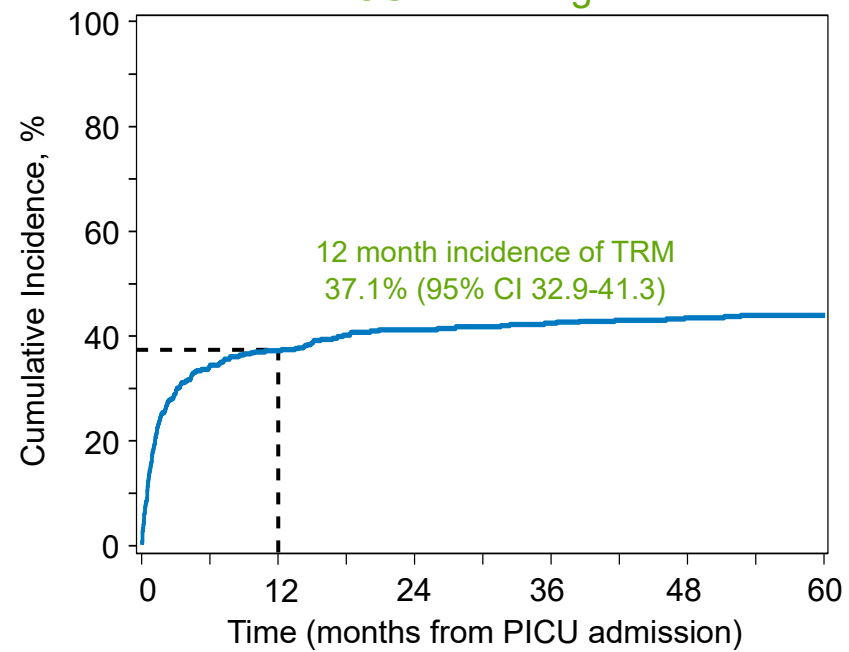
### Overall Survival of Patients Admitted to PICU



**N at Risk**

Non-malignant	467	274	256	241	220	188
Malignant	600	277	228	203	186	140

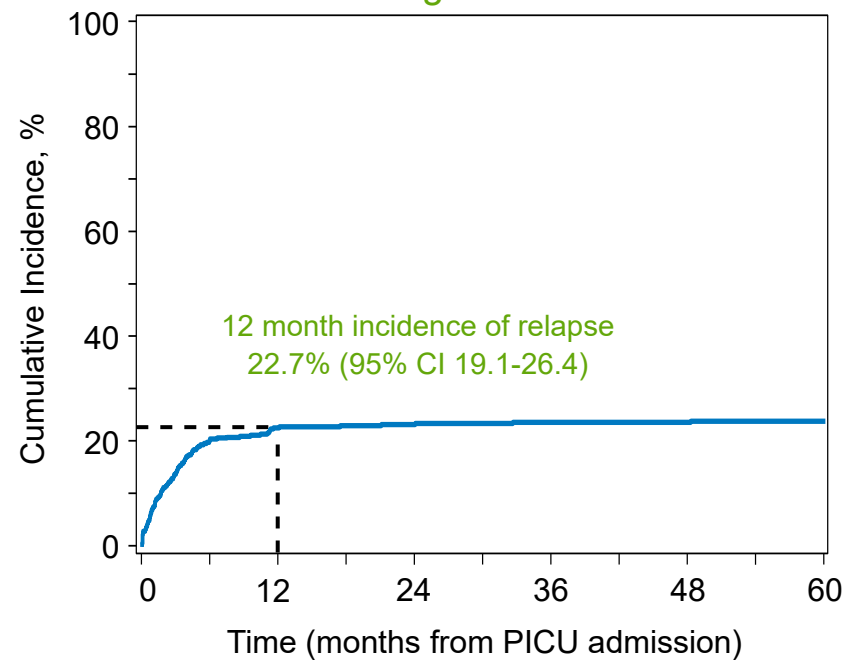
### Treatment-Related Mortality of Patients Admitted to PICU with Malignant Disease



**N at Risk**

503	202	174	162	147	109
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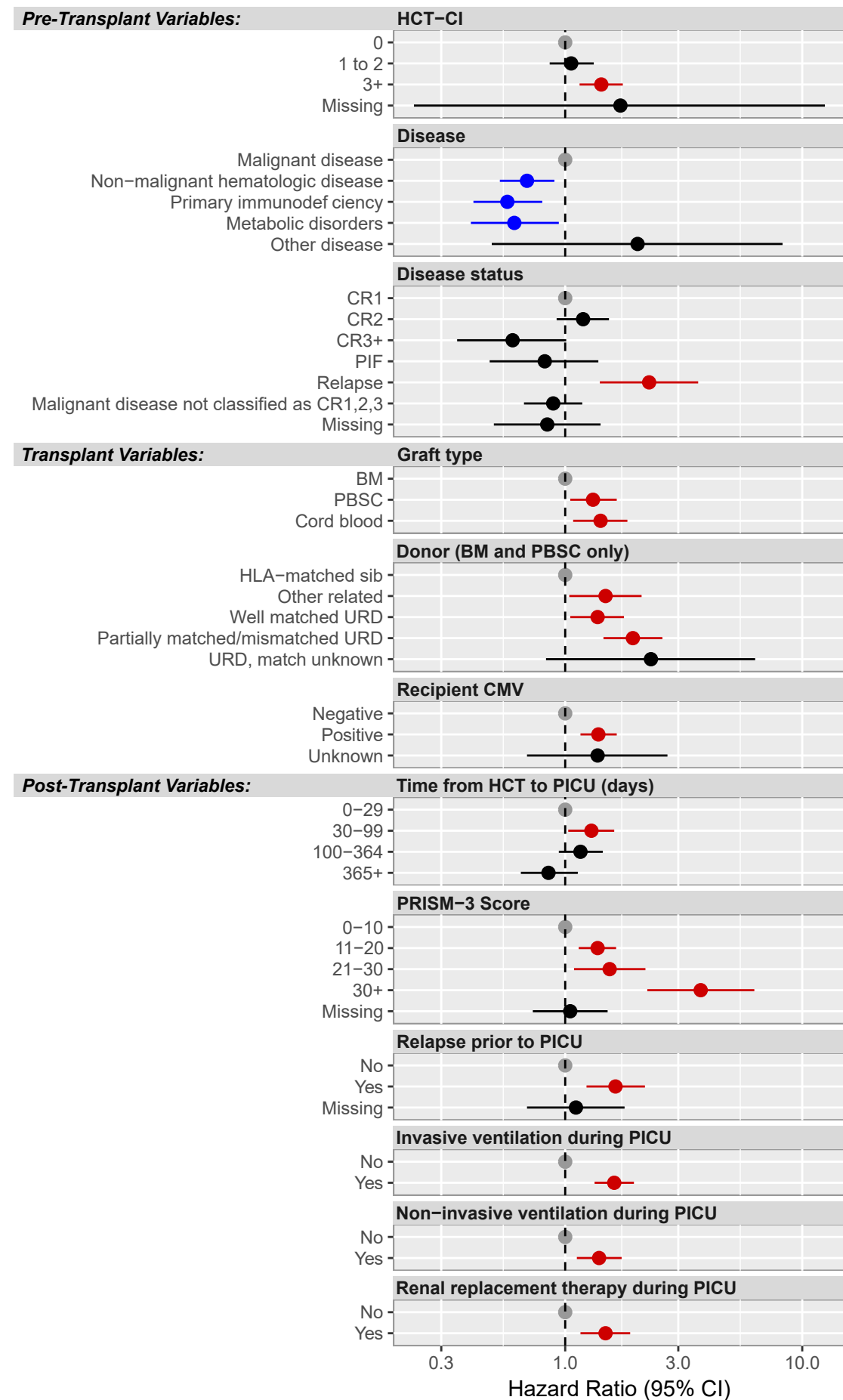
### Relapse of Patients Admitted to PICU with Malignant Disease



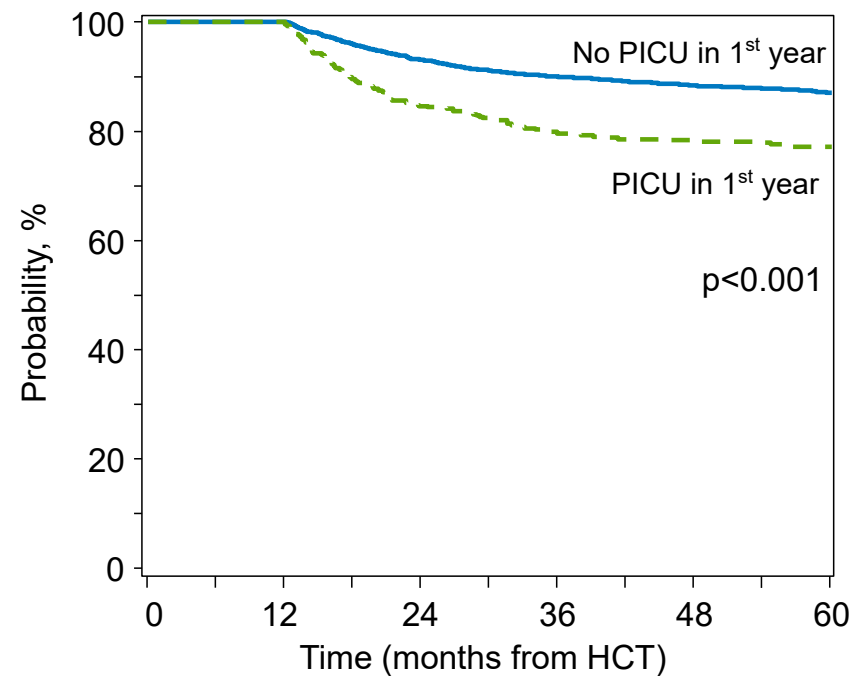
**N at Risk**

503	202	174	162	147	109
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### B)

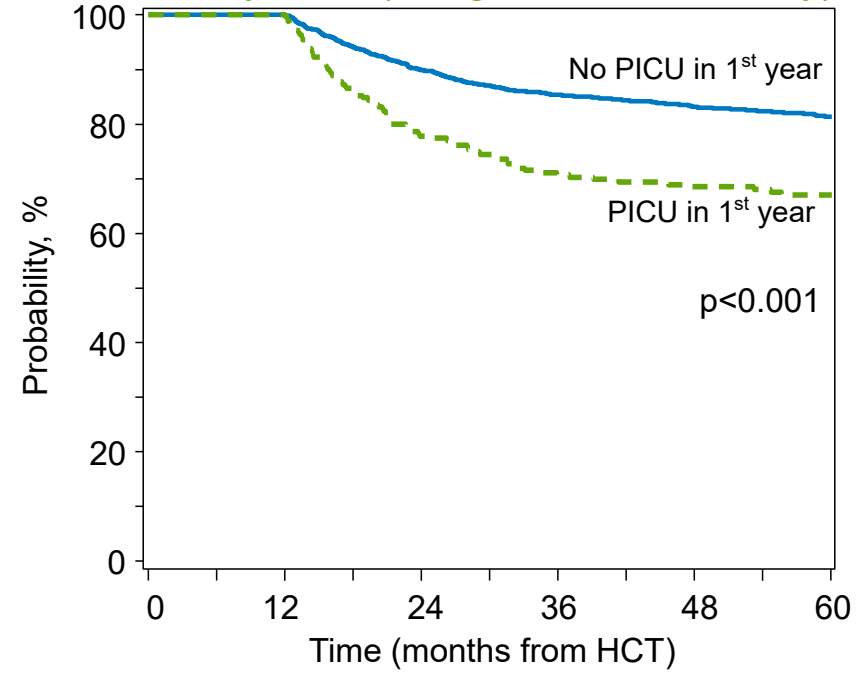


**A) Overall Survival of Patients Alive at HCT Day +365**



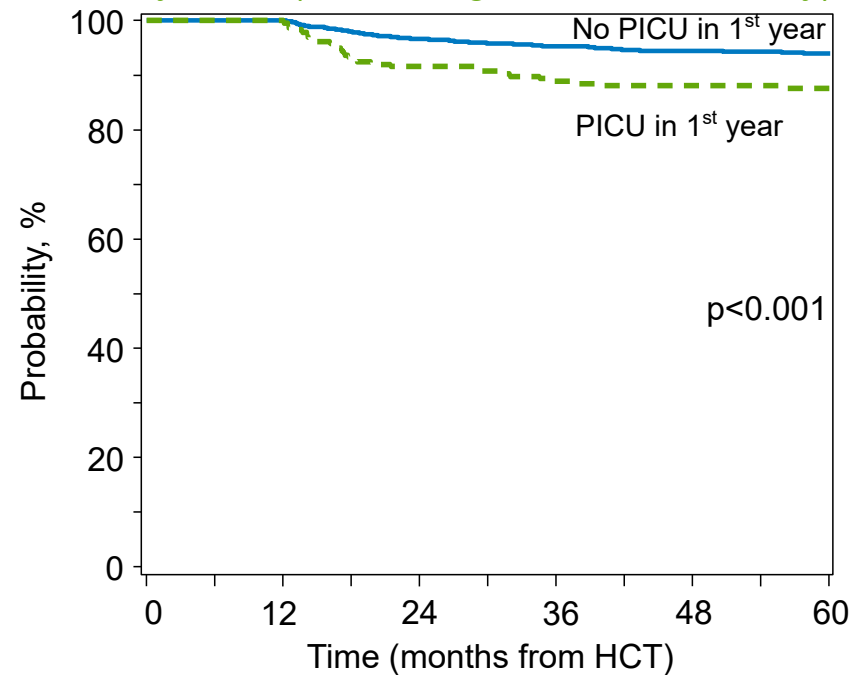
N at Risk		0	12	24	36	48	60
No PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	4871	4871	4420	4101	3772	3218	
PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	481	481	401	367	341	298	

**Overall Survival of Patients Alive at HCT Day +365 (Malignant Disease Only)**



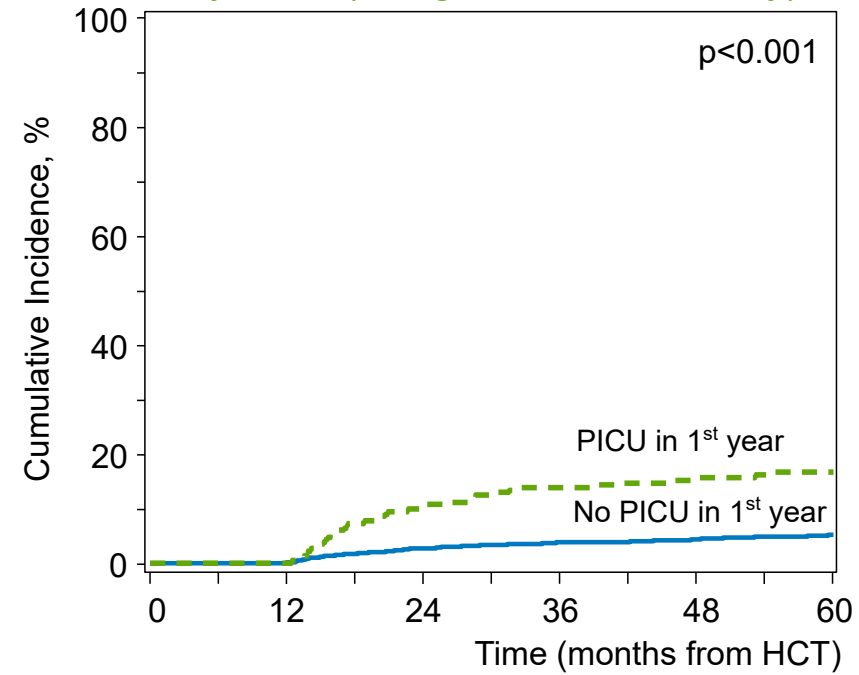
N at Risk		0	12	24	36	48	60
No PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	2628	2628	2314	2122	1941	1653	
PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	244	244	188	166	153	126	

**Overall Survival of Patients Alive at HCT Day +365 (Non-Malignant Disease Only)**



N at Risk		0	12	24	36	48	60
No PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	2243	2243	2106	1979	1831	1565	
PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	237	237	213	201	188	172	

**Treatment Related Mortality of Patients Alive at HCT Day +365 (Malignant Disease Only)**



N at Risk		0	12	24	36	48	60
No PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	2582	2340	2035	1866	1690	1430	
PICU in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	236	202	159	142	129	106	

**B)**

