

Wigan man donates bone marrow

10 July 2007 2:51 PM

By [Charles Graham](#)

A Wigan dad has been hailed a hero for saving the life of a man he may never meet - Adrian Taylor, a 33-year-old civil engineer from Aspull, gave the gift of life to the anonymous stranger by donating some of his bone marrow.

The married father-of-two today urged other Wigan folk to follow his example and put their names down on the Anthony Nolan Trust register and so give hope to more sufferers of potentially deadly illnesses such as leukaemia. He said: "There was so little inconvenience and discomfort on my part compared with what patients at the end of the road are going through.

"It is amazing how few people are on the register and amazing how many more people could be helped if that list was much longer."



ADRIAN TAYLOR: A life-saving bone marrow donor.

Adrian first put his name forward five years ago after a colleague told him about it. He completed a medical form and provided a small sample of blood through his company medical unit.

This was then tissue-typed and stored on the Anthony Nolan register, the database of UK potential donors which is searched every time any patient in the world needs a bone marrow transplant.

About a year ago Adrian received a letter from the trust and was asked to give more blood samples.

He said: "It turned out that I wasn't a match for that person so when I was contacted again a few months ago I didn't expect anything to come of it.

"But this time it seems I was a suitable match and the charity made arrangements for me to travel to London for a medical to check that I was fit and healthy."

There are now two ways for the bone marrow to be collected. A new system allows the stem cells to be collected from the peripheral blood and the donor is treated as an outpatient.

The more traditional "harvest" takes place under general anaesthetic and lasts about an hour. The bone marrow is extracted from the pelvic bones by sterile needle and syringe. Adrian had the option of either method. He said: "I decided to donate by the new method. It was incredibly straightforward.

"A nurse came to my work to give me an injection for a few days and then I went to London for the collection. My bones were aching as they produced more stem cells but it wasn't too bad."

The Anthony Nolan Trust made all the arrangements required for Adrian's donation and cover any loss of expenses incurred. For ethical reasons, donors are given very little information about the patient who receives their bone marrow, but donors can ask for regular updates through the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Adrian said: "All I have been told is that my recipient is an adult male. Within 48 hours of

my donation he would have received my bone marrow and then be in isolation for some time.

"The charity will provide me with updates on his progress but I am happy to just know that I have been able to help."

Ruth Carter, regional fund-raising manager for the Anthony Nolan Trust, said: "A bone marrow transplant offers leukaemia patients a chance of life. We are desperate for more young men like Adrian to join the register. He is a real hero and setting a great example. "Only 11 per cent of the register currently consists of young men aged between 18 and 35. However, 75 per cent of those who go on to donate and save lives are men."

Adrian hopes that his story will encourage more people to join the register. He said: "When I told people what I was going to do most of them winced and commented on how painful it was.

"I can assure them that the perceptions of bone marrow donation are wrong, through the new method of taking stem cells from your blood, the reality is far simpler than most people think."