Autologous stem cell transplant in WM
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22 WM cases underwent HDC with autologous transplant, between 1986 and 2001 according to the most recent report from the IBMTR/ABMTR. Complete retrospective study of these cases is still pending.
Recent literature review showed 24 WM cases published as described in the Table:

	Pts No	Median age	Disease status	Preparative Regimen	Response	FU in mos (range)	Outcomes
Desikan et al '99	6	51	multiple relapse untreated 3	MEL 200 (2pts)	2 PR	15+, 9	1 AW, 1 progr, died
				Mel 140+TBI (1pt)	1PR	6	progressed died
			1st remission 2	MEL 200	2 PR	12+, 5+	2 AW
			Progr disease 1	MEL 200	1 CR	52+	1 AW
reger et al '99	7	49	1st remission 3	CY TBI	PR 1, CR 2	19+ (3-30)	7 AW
			1ry refractory 4	CY TBI	PR 4		
oustafa et al '98	5	Unknown	1st remission	MEL 200	PR 1, CR 4	Unk	Unknown
azza et al '99	1	71	Refractory	Bu MEL120	CR 1	11+	1 AW
Yang et al "99	1	50	Refractory	MEL 140	CR 1	12+	1 AW
MDACC '01	4	49	1ry refractory	Thiotepa Bu CY	PR 1	26+	1 AW
			Refractory relapse	Thiotepa Bu CY	NA	1	1 early death
				VP-16 CY TBI	PR	37	1 2ry AML, died
				CY TBI	PR	123+	1 AW

Median age on the reviewed cases was significantly lower than the average median age of presentation of WM; a variety of preparative regimens were used. However all the patients who received HDC for consolidation of 1st remission or for 1ry refractory disease responded as well as patients transplanted later on the course of their disease. Although FU is still short for this slow progressing disease, HDC with autologous stem cell support might overcome disease resistance and produce durable responses. As for multiple myeloma and low grade lymphoproliferative diseases there is currently no strong evidence to support that HDC can cure WM, however the optimal use of this type of treatment in patients with negative prognostic factors and adequate performance status may prolong overall and disease free survival. Well designed multi-center studies using recent advances in the treatment of lymphoid malignancies and autologous stem cell support, are needed to further explore autologous stem cell transplantation in WM.