What can GVHD Teach Us about the Graft versus Reservoir Effect?

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Summary for the Community:

- ***Key questions of research:***
  - **How can we harness the immune system after transplant to help eradicate HIV?**
- ***Key findings and take-home message:***
  - **After transplant, T cells undergo a transition to favor those of the "Th17" type. These may be the most important cells for the graft-versus-viral reservoir effect.**
- ***Why is this important and how is this related to cure?***
  - **If we are to understand the reasons that the Berlin Patient was cured, we need to understand how his donor T cells may have helped clear the HIV reservoir. To do this, we must understand how T cells are activated after transplant.**
- ***Why should we be excited about this?***
  - **These experiments get us closer to understanding the ways that T cells can target recipient cells after transplant. The more we know about this, the more we can engineer these T cells to clear the viral reservoir. These results also show that donor T cells can get into the brain after transplant. This may be important for clearing the central nervous system reservoir.**