

CLINICAL TRIALS *Info Sheet*



Roswell Park currently has
300+ clinical trials enrolling patients



All patients are assigned to a team who are dedicated to clinical trials. This team helps patients navigate the study and ensure they receive the best possible care.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

All the cancer drugs and therapies used today came about after many years of research. Clinical trials are the final stages of this research where physicians and scientists work together to evaluate a promising new treatment or approach. A clinical trial may study or test a new:

- ✓ approach to diagnose or prevent cancer
- ✓ drug or method to treat cancer
- ✓ way to use or combine existing treatments

When clinical trials identify better, more effective and/or less toxic approaches, these new therapies can eventually become the standard of care.

WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER A CLINICAL TRIAL?

1 Clinical trials offer access to new treatments, which can be crucial if standard treatments have not been effective.

2 If a new treatment is proven effective, you may be among the first to benefit.

3 It's an opportunity to help others and advance cancer treatment.

ARE CLINICAL TRIAL TREATMENTS A BETTER OPTION?

For some patients, yes, but not for all patients. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of participating in a clinical trial. For example, researchers are developing treatments that target specific characteristics of the cancer cell, thereby killing cancer cells more effectively.

A study drug that targets a genetic characteristic of your tumor could offer your best option. Some of these treatments have already become standard of care. One example is Herceptin, which targets breast and stomach cancers that show abnormal activity of a protein called HER-2. Many treatments are available exclusively through clinical trials, offering unique opportunities for patients.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Many people misunderstand the purpose of clinical trials and how they're conducted. Learn the facts you need to make an informed decision about whether to participate.

myth **vs.** FACT

myth

I could get a placebo (pill, liquid or powder) that contains no medicine instead of treatment.



FACT

Few cancer clinical trials use placebos. If you have active cancer, you will receive treatment. Some studies compare standard treatment plus a new treatment to standard treatment plus a placebo. You will be informed if you are receiving a placebo.

myth

People only enroll in a clinical trial after trying all other options.



FACT

Many patients join a study as their best option before starting any treatment. Some studies focus on preventing cancer rather than treating it.

myth

Because Roswell Park is a research institution, patients are required to participate in studies.



FACT

About half our patients are eligible for a trial, but it's only an option. **IT IS ENTIRELY THE PATIENT'S DECISION.**

myth

Once you enroll in a trial, you cannot change your mind.



FACT

You may choose to leave a trial at **any time, for any reason.**

THE STAGES OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Most clinical trials involve testing a potential new drug. Each study progresses in an orderly series of steps called phases. This allows researchers to ask and answer questions in a way that gives reliable results while protecting patients. Clinical trials usually include three phases.



PHASE I STUDIES...

are the first step in testing a new drug or intervention in people.

Researchers evaluate what dose is safe and how it should be given.



PHASE II STUDIES...

continue to test the safety of the drug or intervention and evaluate how well it works.

Phase II studies often focus on a particular type of cancer.



PHASE III STUDIES...

compare a new drug or intervention with the current standard treatment. Phase III studies may include hundreds of people across the country.

ROSWELL PARK'S CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

As one of the first in the nation to focus specifically on developing new cancer treatments, our center provides more treatment options through clinical trials, offers the highest level of patient safety and quickly generates precise data on potential new treatments.

Roswell Park has a strong history of cancer research success.

Among other milestones, we:

- launched the **first chemotherapy research program** in the United States in 1904.
- developed the **prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test** to detect prostate cancer.
- conducted studies that helped gain FDA approval of **breakthrough immunotherapy drugs** like Yervoy, Opdivo and Keytruda.