

## WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN A CLINICAL TRIAL?

When you are diagnosed with lung cancer or have a recurrence of the disease, you and your doctor should discuss whether a clinical trial is one of your treatment options.

### WHAT IS A CLINICAL TRIAL?

Clinical trials are medical research studies involving volunteer participants that test the safety and effectiveness of promising approaches to disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

Cancer clinical trials that test treatments might involve the use of drugs, radiation therapy, surgery or other ways to treat your disease. Treatments are only brought into clinical trials after a lot of prior research shows that the treatment is promising. Clinical trials are carefully controlled and conducted by doctors to ensure that volunteers receive the best possible treatment and care while helping to improve therapies for cancer patients that come after them. Some trials test a person's tumor, blood, breath, etc. to find substances that may predict who is at risk for disease, or which treatment course is likely to be the most effective.

Some people may think they should wait until a standard treatment fails for them before considering a clinical trial. However, many trials are designed to test treatments for patients who are newly-diagnosed or have limited disease.

Clinical trials are crucial to find out whether new treatments are really better than currently used therapies; progress in treatments cannot happen unless people volunteer to participate in clinical trials.

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF CLINICAL TRIALS

- Many patients feel they get more attention and care and more frequent check-ups if they participate in a clinical trial.
- All patients participating in cancer clinical trials will receive at least the best cancer treatment currently known for their type and stage of cancer. If placebos are used, patients usually receive them in addition to standard treatments.
- Participating in a clinical trial may make newer treatments available to you.
- Clinical trial participants often feel a sense of empowerment over their disease by taking an active role in their care.
- When you participate in a clinical trial, you are investing in the future of cancer therapy for those who are diagnosed after you.

## IMPORTANT ISSUES TO KEEP IN MIND

- Your treatment and clinical trial options will be based on the particular stage and type of lung cancer you have and your overall health. To determine which treatments or clinical trials are appropriate for you, talk to your doctor.
- All clinical trial participants are volunteers who can stop at any time they choose.
- If you are given an experimental treatment as part of a clinical trial, there may be unexpected side effects.
- An experimental treatment in a clinical trial may not be effective.
- If you volunteer for a clinical trial, you may have additional office visits, tests or procedures.
- Your insurance company and/or the trial itself will pay for your care in a clinical trial. Your doctor's office should be able to help you with any insurance issues.
- Clinical trials can offer benefits for many people during their cancer experience. But clinical trials involve some possible risks, and they may not be right for everyone. Several resources are listed below to help guide you through making your decision.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org](http://www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org)

[www.emergingmed.com/networks/NationalLungCancerPartnership/](http://www.emergingmed.com/networks/NationalLungCancerPartnership/)

[www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/](http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/)

[www.cancer.net/patient/All+About+Cancer/Clinical+Trials](http://www.cancer.net/patient/All+About+Cancer/Clinical+Trials)

**For additional lung cancer resources and ordering information, visit:**  
[www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org](http://www.NationalLungCancerPartnership.org)