



# Clinical Trials

**GO<sub>2</sub>** FOUNDATION  
**FOR LUNG CANCER**  
Empower Everyone. Ignore No One.

**O'NEAL** COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER  
**UAB** THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM



# Clinical Trials

## WHAT IS A CLINICAL TRIAL?

**A clinical trial is research done to see if new ways to treat cancer work and if they are safe.**

**Doctors watch all people in a trial to see if things are working and look for side effects.**

### **They can be done in different ways:**

- Everyone gets a new drug
- Some people get a new drug and others get a drug we already use
- Some trials look at ways to care for patients other than drugs
- In some trials, some patients may receive a sugar pill or “placebo”

You will never get less care in a clinical trial than what your doctor would have done anyway.

You may get a sugar pill (placebo) in addition to other recommended medicines or treatment.



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## WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO A CLINICAL TRIAL?

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- You might get the newest treatments early
- You get good care in a trial – doctors and others check on you a lot when you are part of one
- We can't use any treatments until a clinical trial is done – you can help find new and better treatments

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## IS A TRIAL RISKY?

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There might be some risks, but all trials are looked at by outside people to make sure there are more benefits than risks

### **RISKS COULD BE:**

- A new drug might not work better than old ones
- There could be side effects we don't know about
- Trial appointments and treatments can be free or paid by insurance, but sometimes there could be a cost

**Just because it's a trial doesn't mean we know nothing about the treatment!**

Trials have more than one part so most of the time the treatment has already been given to others and we know a bit about how it works.

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## WHO CAN DO A TRIAL?

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**Almost everyone!** There are lots of trials happening right now – and each one is looking for different kinds of people

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## WHEN CAN YOU DO A TRIAL?

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**Almost any time!** It doesn't matter if you have started treatment yet or not

They are not just for people without any good treatment options left

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## WHERE CAN I FIND TRIALS?

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Sometimes there is a trial where you are being treated right now or close by

There are also lots of trials all over the country – you may have to go to a different place and see a new doctor for some trials

### **Where to look for the right trial for you:**

- Start by asking your doctor – they may know trials near you or other doctors that have a trial
- Other patients may know about trials
- Cancer patient organizations can sometimes help you look for trials

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## HOW DO I JOIN A TRIAL?

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### **When you find a trial:**

- First, someone will look at you, do tests, and ask questions to see if the trial is right for you
- You will be told about the trial and can ask questions
- You will be asked to sign a form that says you want to do the trial

### **Remember!**

- 1) You can always say no if you don't want to do a trial
- 2) You can change your mind and stop doing a trial at any time

Doctors can help you find other treatments if you don't want to do a trial.

# QUESTIONS ABOUT LUNG CANCER TRIALS?

LungMATCH is a program that helps to answer your questions about lung cancer clinical trials. You can talk on the phone or email someone who can give you information and help you to think about what to ask your doctor.

LungMATCH is offered by GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation for Lung Cancer – a nonprofit organization that helps people with lung cancer, their families, and caregivers.

Lung**MATCH** can help:

**Call: 1-800-298-2436 OR**

**Email: [support@go2foundation.org](mailto:support@go2foundation.org)**