

DEBUNKING CLINICAL TRIAL MYTHS

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*“Research is not something done to people. It is something done **with** people.”-- Dr. Grace Ma of Temple University*

4 out of 5 people living with cancer don't know trials are a treatment option

What is a clinical Trial?

ALL drugs carrying an FDA approval and sold either over-the-counter or prescribed by your provider, have been studied on a clinical trial with real people. Clinical trials are studies in which people volunteer to test investigational treatments. Trials offer patients new and potentially improved treatments over current options.

Debunking the Myths of Clinical Trials

Clinical Trials are only for late stage cancer or as a last resort: Trials are available for ALL stages of cancer, from early to late. There are even cancer prevention trials. Many people want access to trials to participate in the latest treatments. Trials are a viable treatment option!

I'll be treated like a guinea pig: Strict guidelines are in place to ensure volunteers are treated fairly and ethically. Before a study drug can be given to patients, scientists must complete a rigorous process. All protocols are reviewed and approved by an independent review board to review the study for safety and ethical standards. Trials have extra safeguards in place such as additional tests and labs to more closely monitor the patient. Re-staging scans are done more often, plus patients receive a dedicated research nurse on trial.

I might get a sugar pill (placebo): In cancer treatment trials, placebos are given **with** standard treatment. No one is ONLY given a placebo unless there is no standard treatment (in the case of observation only).

I'm too old for a clinical trial: Eligibility for a trial is based on your performance status and other medical conditions. A patient can be a very healthy 85 year old and be eligible or a unhealthy 50 year old and not be eligible.

I have to go to a large institution far away: While academic centers do offer clinical trials, so do local community hospital cancer centers and private practices such as us.

Once I join a trial, I have to stay enrolled: Patients may leave a trial for ANY reason at ANY time. It is completely voluntary.

My insurance won't pay for a clinical trial: By law, insurance companies are required to pay for standard of care costs while a patient is enrolled in a trial--For example, routine CT scans and labs. The clinical trial will pay for any research specific labs and diagnostics and will supply the research drug at no cost to the patient. *Important:* Patients are still responsible for their co-pays and deductibles as defined by their insurance plan.

To speak with a research nurse about clinical trial options Andrews & Patel offers, please contact: Renée Kessler, RN – Clinical Trials Coordinator, rkessler@andrewspatel.com or 717-761-8740 x9338.