

Clinical Trials at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and Emory Healthcare are proud to offer clinical trials and provide the opportunity for our patients to participate in them. As the only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center in the state of Georgia, Winship at Emory's involvement in clinical trials sets us apart from other health care organizations. We give cancer patients access to cutting-edge care that is often not available elsewhere. Emory Healthcare also offers a multitude of clinical trials in other specialties, including heart and vascular, neurology, transplant and more. Below are answers to frequently asked questions about clinical trials.

Overview of Clinical Trials

Q. What is a clinical trial?

A. A clinical trial is a form of research that uses human volunteers (called participants) to help answer specific questions about new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases. Clinical trials are extremely important because they allow patients access to novel treatments that are not yet available through standard clinical practice.

Q. What types of clinical trials are available?

A. There are several forms of clinical trials. Some trials test new drugs, procedures or other treatments, and others look for better ways to prevent cancer in people who have either never had the disease or are trying to prevent a recurrence. Diagnostic trials are used to develop better ways to diagnose cancer; screening trials help identify the best way to detect cancer early before it causes symptoms. Other trials help find ways to improve the care and quality of life of people with cancer.



Katie Groover enrolled in a multiple myeloma trial at Winship and was supported by a team of experts.

Q. What do the different phases of trials mean?

A. Clinical trials take place in “phases,” and each phase helps researchers answer specific questions.

Phase I: These trials are used to test brand new drugs, new combinations of two or more drugs, and devices or procedures to find out how safe they are, what the best dose is, and to identify possible side effects.

Phase II: These trials are used to further evaluate the effectiveness and safety of a drug, device or procedure. The researchers keep track of any medical benefits, as well as side effects.

Phase III: These trials compare a new treatment or procedure with a standard old treatment or procedure to figure out which works best. Evaluation of side effects and effectiveness continues.

Phase IV: Once a drug or procedure is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and made available to the public, researchers continue to study its safety to figure out the best use of the new treatment.

Q. Who participates in clinical trials?

A. All clinical trials include guidelines, called eligibility criteria, about who can participate. It is best to talk with your doctor before enrolling in a clinical trial. He or she can help figure out whether or not you are able to participate. In addition to the specific disease or condition, other requirements may include age, gender, previous treatments, and other known medical conditions or family medical history.

winshipcancer.emory.edu/clinical-trials
emoryhealthcare.org/clinical-trials

Q. How does clinical research make a difference?

- A. Clinical research helps us learn about the safety and effectiveness of drugs, procedures and other treatments. Medical advances like new drugs and surgical procedures are made possible because of the voluntary participation of individuals in clinical trials

Consider Participating

Q. What are the benefits and risks of participating in a clinical trial?

- A. It is important to understand that all medical research involves some amount of risk. Since risks and benefits are different for each clinical trial, make sure you talk to members of the research team before making a decision. They can tell you about the known risks and benefits of the trial, as well as other available treatment options to help you and your loved ones decide whether or not to participate.

Q. Why should I consider participating in a clinical trial?

- A. If you are diagnosed with cancer and have a personal interest in research and would like to improve the care of patients in the future, participating in clinical trials may be for you. Keep in mind that participation is voluntary, so if you change your mind at any point during the study, you have the right to stop participating. Just make sure to talk to your doctor first.



Anne Kilpatrick counted on Dr. Christopher Flowers for support while she was enrolled in a clinical trial for lymphoma treatment.

Make an Informed Decision

Q. What questions should I ask if I am thinking about participating in a clinical trial?

- A. The National Institutes of Health provides a list of questions a person should ask when considering taking part in clinical trials. You can find this list by visiting nih.gov/health/clinicaltrials. While there may be benefits to participating in clinical trials, there can also be risks, so it is important to talk with a physician before deciding to participate.

Q. Where else can I find information about clinical trials?

- A. There are several websites that provide information about clinical trials, including:
- Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University: winshipcancer.emory.edu
 - Emory Healthcare: emoryhealthcare.org/clinical-trials
 - National Institutes of Health websites: nih.gov and www.clinicaltrials.gov
 - National Cancer Institute: cancer.gov/clinicaltrials
 - Emory Institutional Review Board: irb.emory.edu/participants

Clinical Trials at Emory

Q. How can I find out about other types of clinical trials offered at Emory?

- A. Clinical trials at Emory are available on the National Institutes of Health website. Visit emoryhealthcare.org/clinical-trials to find a clinical trial at Emory. You can find cancer-related clinical trials at the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.

For more information on clinical trials at Winship Cancer Institute, please ask your physician or call 404-778-1868 or send an email to winshipcto@emory.edu.

winshipcancer.emory.edu/clinical-trials
emoryhealthcare.org/clinical-trials

