

CLINICAL TRIALS



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

FINDING GENTLER, MORE EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS THROUGH RESEARCH

Clinical trials are vital for improving cancer treatments. Last year we spent around £31 million supporting them, and our groundbreaking work has saved the lives of many thousands of people in the UK and all over the world.

WHAT ARE CLINICAL TRIALS?

Clinical trials are medical research studies involving people. Doctors use them to assess any new treatment before it can be made available to patients more widely. This includes testing new drugs, new techniques, improvements to existing treatments, and screening tests.

Clinical trials show whether new treatments are safe, what their side effects are and whether they're better than what's currently used. They are vital for developing treatments that are less invasive, have fewer side effects and give people a better quality of life during and after their treatment. Clinical trials can also determine whether people who are at high risk can have treatments to prevent cancer from developing in the first place.

HOW DO I JOIN A CLINICAL TRIAL?

The best way is to speak to your own cancer doctor. The Cancer Research UK website includes a unique searchable [database of UK clinical trials](#) written for patients and relatives. Here, you can find more information about trials that you can ask your doctor about, and see trial results. We also have a [leaflet for patients](#) that explains

Have you got questions about cancer?

Visit cruk.org/about-cancer or call our specialist cancer nurses on 0808 800 4040

We support more than 250 clinical trials across the UK

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 5

More than one in five people diagnosed with cancer in the UK take part in a clinical trial.



More than half of cancer patients enrolling in UK clinical trials joined a study we support – that's over 27,000 patients across the UK each year.

6 in 10

We support six out of 10 children's and young adults' cancer clinical trials in the UK.



Trials are broken down into three phases that test the safety, effectiveness, and benefits of a new treatment.



Clinical trials can be costly and take many years. We often partner with other organisations to make them happen.

OUR SCIENCE CHANGES LIVES

Our clinical trials have tested new ways of combining treatments, making them more effective with fewer side effects.

ALAN FROM KIDDERMINSTER KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

“ I took part in a clinical trial to see if having chemotherapy before surgery would help shrink my bowel tumour, making it easier for my surgeon to remove. I was so relieved to wake up and hear the surgeon say ‘we’ve got it all’. Now I can get back to playing golf and, even better, being a grandpop for the first time. ”

Cancer Research UK t: +44 (0)20 7242 0200  

Registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103).

For information on clinical trials, stats, signs & symptoms and treatment, go to cruk.org



PROFESSOR PAM KEARNS IN BIRMINGHAM TELLS US HER STORY

“ I've been treating children with cancer for 15 years, and now I run the Children's Cancer Trials team within Birmingham's CRUK Clinical Trials Unit. Clinical trials have helped us make real progress in the way we treat children with cancer – today, more than seven out of 10 children get better. Let's make that 10 out of 10. And let's keep doing research to find treatments that are better, are gentler and cause fewer long-term side effects so that these children can get back to being children again. ”

We
receive no
government
funding
for our
research

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our clinical trials give doctors new ways to tackle cancer. They have already helped double over the last 40 years, but we've still got a lot left to do.

PREVENTING CANCER

Our clinical trials showed how useful tamoxifen can be in preventing breast cancer from returning. Women in the UK and all over the world are alive today thanks to this work.

SAVING LIVES

We proved that a drug called mitoxantrone can treat a type of childhood leukaemia that has come back – saving thousands of young lives all over the world.

GENTLER TREATMENTS

We discovered that lower doses of radiation can work just as well against thyroid cancer – improving quality of life by reducing side-effects and the time spent in hospital.

RARE CANCERS

We are part of the International Rare Cancers Initiative, funding trials to improve the outlook for patients with rarer types of the disease.

OUR PROGRESS IS YOUR PROGRESS

Clinical trials are essential for making better treatments available to patients. Here are some highlights of our trials around the UK.

Liverpool: Prof Richard Shaw is asking whether spending time in a high pressure oxygen chamber reduces the risk of jaw damage from radiotherapy in people with head and neck cancers. The results could lead to fewer long-term side effects for patients.



Manchester: Dr Corinne Faivre-Finn is finding the best ways to combine chemotherapy and radiotherapy for people with lung cancer. This disease can be difficult to treat successfully so her results could make a real difference.



Leeds: Professor Peter Hillmen is leading a trial of an exciting new drug against chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. His results could transform the outlook for patients.

Sutton: Professor Andrew Pearson is running a trial that could improve survival for children with neuroblastoma. He's comparing different drug combinations to find the one that works best in children whose disease is no longer responding to treatment.

Oxford: Professor Tim Maughan is using molecular information from patients' bowel tumours to help decide their treatment. This is a step towards personalised medicine, matching people to the treatment that is most likely to work best against their type of cancer.



London: Dr Chris Parker is finding out whether giving radiotherapy soon after surgery could help men with prostate cancer that has spread. He also wants to know whether adding a drug that blocks the male hormone testosterone can reduce the chances of the disease coming back.



Find out more: download other research leaflets in this series at cruk.org/researchleaflets