

CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are medical research trials involving patients that are carried out to try and find new and better treatments. In cancer, clinical trials are most commonly used to try and improve different forms of treatment such as surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

The treatment being tested may be aimed at improving the number of people cured (for example: trying new types of surgery or chemotherapy)

- improving survival
- relieving the symptoms of the cancer
- relieving the side effects of treatment
- improving the quality of life or sense of well-being for people with cancer.

Clinical trials may also involve research aimed at understanding more about the tumour's biology. Patients may be asked to allow health professionals to do research on the tumour sample removed at surgery, or on blood samples.

Well-run clinical trials have led to a significant improvement in the treatment of adults and children with cancer. If you are asked to consider entering a clinical trial you will be given specific information about the trial before deciding whether to take part.