

TYPES OF CLINICAL TRIALS

There are different types of clinical trials, each designed to answer different research questions. Many types of clinical trials are designed to find out more about a particular medical product or intervention, but some trials are observational in nature. In oncology, the types of clinical trials include:

Prevention Trials

are designed to find out whether healthy people can reduce their risk of cancer by taking certain actions, such as being more physically active; by taking certain therapeutics, vitamins, minerals, or dietary supplements; or by having certain risk-reducing surgeries.



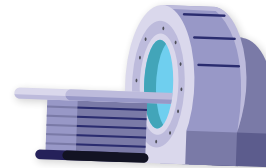
Screening Trials

are designed to test whether new ways to detect a certain type of cancer early in development are effective at reducing deaths from the type of cancer being screened for.



Diagnostic Trials

are designed to test new ways to diagnose a certain type of cancer.



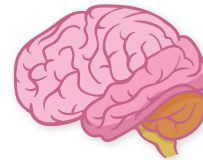
Treatment Trials

are designed to test whether new treatments or new ways of using existing treatments are safe and efficacious for people who have cancer. These trials can test any type of treatment, including surgery, radiotherapy, cytotoxic chemotherapy, molecularly targeted therapy, and immunotherapy, alone or in combination with another treatment(s).



Quality of Life Trials (also known as supportive care or palliative care trials)

are designed to find out whether people who have cancer can improve their quality of life by taking certain actions, such as attending support groups or being more physically active; or by taking certain therapeutics, such as those to treat depression or nausea.



Natural History or Observational Studies

are designed to learn more about how cancer develops and progresses by following people who have cancer or people who are at high risk for developing cancer over a long period of time. Depending on the study, researchers may collect details about the participants' medical history; their families' medical histories; tissue (such as blood and saliva); tumor samples; information about the participants' lifestyle, such as how physically active they are or what they eat; or other information.

