

07.

MYTH

New treatments are always better than the current treatment available (standard treatments).

FACT

New treatments may not always be better.

A new treatment might not work as well as the standard treatment and could have unknown side effects. If you take part in a trial, you will learn about treatments, tests, benefits, and risks through informed consent before you choose to join.

08.

MYTH

Patients often cannot take part in clinical trials because they are not covered by health insurance.

FACT

Coverage varies by health plan and trial.

Some studies are free for those who take part, with costs covered by the study group. Others may have costs sometimes covered by your health plan. Taking part does not guarantee free medical care. There may be coverage limits. Knowing the costs before you decide to take part in a cancer research study is key!

09.

MYTH

Once I join a clinical trial I cannot leave.

FACT

You can leave a study at any time, for any reason.

People who volunteer to be part of a clinical trial have rights. If you are not able to continue on the trial, talk with your health care team. Together you can talk about other options. If you still want to leave the study, that is ok – it is your choice. You will still get care and will be treated with respect.

To learn more about clinical trials visit:

- ClinicalTrials.gov
- FoxChase.Org/REOnline



**Fox Chase
Cancer Center**
Temple Health

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
OUTREACH AND
ENGAGEMENT



CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS: MYTHS AND FACTS



Today's state-of-the-art cancer treatments are the result of yesterday's clinical trials.



**Fox Chase
Cancer Center**
Temple Health

9 MYTHS & FACTS



Clinical trials are research studies done with people who volunteer. Diversity of volunteers is important so that all people can benefit.

01. MYTH

Only people who have cancer can join a cancer clinical trial.

FACT

There are trials for people who do not have cancer.

Three types of cancer trials welcome non-cancer patients:

- Prevention trials - Study ways to lower your risk of getting cancer
- Early detection/screening trials - Look for better ways to find cancer early
- Diagnostic trials - Focus on finding better cancer testing

02. MYTH

Many people who join cancer treatment clinical trials get a placebo (inactive substance) instead of being treated.

FACT

Placebos are rarely used in cancer treatment trials.

Placebos might be used in certain cancer studies, but only if there is no standard treatment. If there is a known cancer treatment, no placebo will be used. Placebos are never used when a cancer patient would be put at risk by not having treatment that could work for their cancer. You would learn if a placebo is part of any study before you agree to take part.

03. MYTH

People who join clinical trials are “guinea pigs.”

FACT

Those who take part are not just test subjects.

If you take part in a trial, you are treated with respect and dignity. There are guidelines in place to protect you and make sure the treatment is humane. You will go through the process of informed consent, where you will learn all about the trial before you decide to take part. It is important to take time, ask questions, and feel good about the choice you make.

04. MYTH

Anyone can join a clinical trial.

FACT

Each trial has a list of criteria (or standards) for who can join that study. Not everyone can join a trial.

Clinical trials have strict criteria like age, type of cancer, stage of cancer, a person’s general health and many other factors. They are used to make sure that only people who can safely take part in the trial are included.

05. MYTH

Cancer treatment clinical trials are only offered as a “last resort.”

FACT

Trials may be offered at all points of treatment, for all stages of cancer.

If only the sickest people took part, researchers would not know how to treat patients with early stage cancers. For that reason, there are trials to cover all cancer stages, from early to advanced.

06. MYTH

There are no real benefits to taking part in clinical trials.

FACT

People that take part can benefit from clinical trials.

When you take part in treatment trials, you get high-quality cancer care. If a new method works well, you may be among the first to benefit. You can also help others and change the future of cancer treatment.

