

# Understanding Clinical Trials

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## Key Points

The Swedish Cancer Institute has more than 150 clinical trials open to ensure that the most current treatments are available to you.

- Talk to your physician about whether a clinical trial might be right for you
- Participation in a study is voluntary
- Participation involves responsibilities on your part
- Clinical trials are now considered a standard treatment option

## What is a Clinical Trial?

A clinical trial is a carefully designed experiment aimed at testing various treatment options in a group of people.

## How Do I Gain Access to a Trial?

- Check the clinical trial list in the Swedish Cancer Institute's Cancer Education Center.
- Talk with your doctor to see if a trial is right for you.

## What Determines if I Can Participate in a Trial?

Everyone who participates in a trial has to meet the eligibility criteria. It is important for all study participants to have the same characteristics (such as the same type of cancer, for example).

## Should I Participate if I am Eligible?

When considering a study, you will go through an informed consent process. This process ensures that you fully understand the procedures of the study. You and your medical team will make this decision together.

## What Happens if I Join a Trial?

- You will have regular visits with your physician and research nurse
- You will be asked to adhere to the study treatment calendar
- You may be asked to complete forms about how you are doing
- You may have additional monitoring tests such as X-rays to evaluate your response to treatment
- You will be asked to share your medical history
- You will be carefully monitored for your safety and to avoid harmful side effects

## What Questions Should I Ask When Considering a Trial?

- What is the purpose of the study?
- What types of tests will I have to take?
- What can I expect?
- What are the risks and side effects?
- What is the schedule?
- How will my life be affected?
- How long will I participate?
- What are the financial aspects?
- How will I know the treatment is working?
- Will study results be provided?