Cancer Clinical Trials

What People Should Know About Clinical Trials
Clinical trials are carefully designed medical research studies conducted with people that:

- test promising diagnostic, treatment and prevention methods
- attempt to answer scientific questions
Stages in the Development of Medicines

1. Laboratory Research
2. Animal Testing
3. Clinical Trials in Humans
The Process

- **Phase I** - First studies in people to test safety
- **Phase II** - Is it effective and how much should be given
- **Phase III** - Testing on more people to learn more about the drug’s effectiveness, benefits and range of possible adverse reactions
- **Phase IV** - Usually compares the new drug with other drugs already on the market
Types of Clinical Trials

- Treatment
- Prevention
- Screening
- Quality of Life
Benefits

- Better targeted medicines
- Access to, and experience with the newest treatments before they are available to others
- Most study treatment are at no cost
- You will be helping others
Who is Watching Out for Your Interest!

- US Department of Health and Human Services
- The National Institutes of Health
- The Food and Drug Administration
- The Institutional Review Board
- The Physician/Investigator
- You - your knowledge of the process
Being an Educated Consumer is Your Best Protection!

The Choice is Yours!
Internet Sources

- FDA/ Office of Special Health Issues
  [http://www.fda.gov/oashi/home.html](http://www.fda.gov/oashi/home.html)

- National Library of Medicine
  [http://www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)

- NCI/CancerNet

- Centerwatch Clinical Trials
  [http://www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com)
Questions: Ask & Answered

- What are my other options?
- Who put the study together?
- Where is the trial being conducted?
- What will I get out of this study?
- What are the risks to me?
- How long will the study last?
- What tests are involved?