

Chemoprevention Clinical Trials

Key Points

- A clinical trial is a study of a large group of people that helps doctors find better ways to improve health.
- Chemoprevention clinical trials try to find better ways to prevent people from getting cancer or lower the chances that people will get it.

1. What is a clinical trial?

A clinical trial is a study of a large group of people that helps doctors find ways to improve health. These studies help doctors find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat a disease. Some clinical trials test new medicines or test the best way to find a disease, especially in its early stages.

2. What is the difference between chemoprevention clinical trials and chemotherapy clinical trials?

Chemotherapy clinical trials try to find better ways to treat cancer in people who already have it. Chemoprevention trials try to find better ways to prevent people from getting cancer or lower the chances that people will get it.

3. Who can take part in a chemoprevention clinical trial?

Men and women of all ages and backgrounds can take part in chemoprevention clinical trials. Usually, they are for healthy people who want to lower their chances of getting a certain type of cancer.

Each clinical trial has different rules about who can join. For example, one trial may want to study only people of a certain age or sex. Another trial may want to study only people with a certain family history.

4. What happens in a chemoprevention clinical trial?

Some studies ask participants to do something (an action) to help reduce the risk of getting cancer like exercising or eating a special diet. Or, studies may ask participants to take something (an agent) like a medicine or vitamin to help reduce the risk of getting cancer.

When people are asked to take something, it may be a:

- **Standard agent:** A medicine or vitamin that is already used to prevent a certain cancer.

- **Study agent:** A new medicine or vitamin that doctors hope will be better than what is already used to prevent a certain cancer.
- **Placebo:** A pill that has no medicine at all. It helps doctors figure out whether or not the study agent really works to prevent cancer.
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6. What are some chemoprevention clinical trials that are going on right now?

You can find out more about clinical trials that are currently being conducted on the National Cancer Institute clinical trials web sites (<http://dcp.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/ongoing/prevention>) and (<http://www.cancer.gov/search/ResultsClinicalTrials.aspx?protocolsearchid=3537224>) or call 1-800-4-CANCER.

Sources:

National Cancer Institute
<http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learning/about-prevention-trials/page11>

Related Resources:

National Cancer Institute
Telephone: 1-800-4-CANCER
Web site: www.cancer.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Telephone: 1-800-311-3435
Web site: www.cdc.gov