

Clinical Trials

Ask Questions.

Explore Your Options.

Get Involved.



About Us

The Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC) is committed to helping people with cancer live longer, healthier lives through research.

Cancer research helps answer questions about cancer, and provides hope for patients. Clinical trials are an important part of cancer research. They help us learn more about how well new medications, treatments, interventions, or devices work. All cancer therapies go through clinical trials before becoming the standard of care.

Supporting patients

Having the option to join a clinical trial is an important part of the cancer care we provide here at the JCC. Knowing all of your options will help you make the best decision for your care.

By joining a clinical trial you have an opportunity to:

- ✓ access the newest ideas about cancer care
 - ✓ take control of decisions affecting your cancer journey
 - ✓ directly contribute to the knowledge in the fight against cancer and shape the future of cancer care
 - ✓ leave a lasting legacy by helping to find better cancer treatments and interventions for future cancer patients
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What is a clinical trial?

Clinical trials provide us with new ways to prevent, diagnose, treat and control cancer.

To do this, cancer clinical trials may test:

- New ways of doing surgery or the timing of when to do surgery
- New drugs or combinations of drugs
- New radiation techniques
- Newer treatments, such as:
 - Immunotherapy – treatments to boost or suppress the immune system in fighting cancer
 - Vaccines – using inactive viruses that helps your immune system to attack and destroy cancer cells
 - Personalized targeted therapies – drugs that target specific molecules on the surface or inside cancer cells
- Using older drugs in a new way
- Using medical devices and technology



When you first learn that you have cancer, a clinical trial may not be the first option that comes to mind.

As you consider your treatment options, there may be a clinical trial that is right for you here at the JCC.

What do I need to know about a clinical trial before joining?

Ask your doctor if there is a clinical trial for you. Your doctor will discuss your options with you.

You have the right to decide if you wish to take part in a clinical trial – it's up to you. Your participation is completely voluntary.

All clinical trials are regularly reviewed by research experts and regulators to make sure that they are safe and ethical.

Clinical trials follow strict rules to make sure participants' rights, safety, and wellbeing are protected. Each trial has a research plan of action, like a recipe or instruction manual, which must be followed. This plan describes:

- how the clinical trial works
- who can join
- details about the treatment or intervention and possible side effects
- tests and visits needed

You will need to sign an informed consent form which describes the research plan and your willingness to participate. Translators and/or legal representatives can help you in this process, if needed.

What are the potential benefits of taking part in a clinical trial?

- You get access to the newest ideas about cancer care under the close watch of a dedicated clinical trials research team.
 - You may receive treatment that is not otherwise available. This treatment may be safer or more effective than the current standard treatment options.
 - Extra follow-up visits or phone calls may be needed, which may benefit your care.
 - You may be able to have treatment closer to home.
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What are the possible risks of taking part in a clinical trial?

- New treatments or interventions are not always better than, or as good as, the standard ones.
- New treatments may have unknown side effects.
- Extra time may be needed for more medical visits and tests.

If new information becomes available that may affect your decision to continue participating in a trial, such as new side effects, you will always be informed.



Ask your doctor or nurse about the potential benefits and possible risks of participating in a clinical trial.

I would like to join a clinical trial. What do I need to do?

Ask your doctor if there is a clinical trial that is right for you. You can also research your options using the links on the next page and discuss your findings with your doctor.

If there is a clinical trial that is right for you, you will meet with a clinical trials staff member. The clinical trial will be explained to you including:

- the research plan
 - the potential benefits and possible risks
 - other therapies that may be available
 - your rights as a research participant
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More blood tests or procedures may be needed to find out if you meet the requirements to join the study.

Your progress will be followed closely by the study doctor and a dedicated clinical trials research team. If you change your mind about participating in a trial, you can stop participating at any time for any reason.

Once the trial is completed and the treatment or intervention is proven to be safe and effective, the research findings are published and submitted to Health Canada for approval. The new treatment or intervention may become the new standard of care for that type of cancer.

How do I find a clinical trial?

For more information on clinical trials and a list of our current trials at the JCC, please visit the Clinical Trials Department website:

www.cancertrialshamilton.ca

All clinical trials that are open for participants to join in Ontario are listed on the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OIRC) website:

www.ontario.canadiancancertrials.ca/

More information on clinical trials being done in Canada and around the world can be found at:

www.clinicaltrials.gov

We partner with other cancer centres in our region which offer clinical trials as part of the Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network:

- Cambridge Memorial Hospital
<https://www.cmh.org/>
 - St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
<http://www.stjoes.ca/>
 - Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines
<http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/en/cancer-care-oncology>
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For general clinical trials information, please visit:

<http://itstartswithme.ca/>

For more information about cancer clinical trials, please visit the Canadian Cancer Society website:

www.cancer.ca/



Notes or questions to ask your health care team:

*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”
Robert Frost, 1920*