

# is a clinical trial of an immunotherapy the answer for me?

The answer could be yes! Learning more about what is involved in clinical trials can help you make the best decision about participating.

“There are trials going on throughout the country, and they are putting lifesaving treatments into people’s hands now.”

## Who can enroll in a clinical trial of an immunotherapy?

Clinical trials of immunotherapy enroll a variety of patients—including those who have had their cancer recur or have participated in previous clinical trials.

## What can I expect from participation in a clinical trial of an immunotherapy?

### Two important aspects of immunotherapy to consider are:

- It may take longer to work than other cancer therapies. However, over time, the benefits may last longer
- Side effects are different from those of chemotherapy, which include hair loss and nausea. Immunotherapies more commonly cause side effects such as fever and rash



**Mary Elizabeth W:**  
Melanoma survivor and  
ImmunoAdvocate

“I signed off on a long list of possible side effects and held my breath and went home and waited to see what was going to happen, and not a whole lot did. But what was really exciting was when I went back one week later. My doctor looked at my tumor and it had started getting smaller.”

Mary Elizabeth shared what her experience as an immunotherapy clinical trial patient was like. Visit [www.TheA2C.org/Mary](http://www.TheA2C.org/Mary) to read her story.

## Where can I find more information on enrolling in an immunotherapy clinical trial?

There are several sources of information on clinical trials:

**The Cancer Research Institute (CRI) Clinical Trial Finder** is designed to help patients quickly search for clinical trials that match their specific cancer diagnosis and treatment history. The Clinical Trial Finder also connects patients with Clinical Trial Navigators, who can help in the search. This confidential, free service can be reached by calling **1-855-216-0127**, Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM (ET), or visiting **[www.cancerresearch.org/clinical-trial-finder](http://www.cancerresearch.org/clinical-trial-finder)**.

**ClinicalTrials.gov** is a government registry of clinical trials maintained by the National Institutes of Health. It is the largest clinical trials database, incorporating information on trials in all 50 states and 187 countries. To learn more, visit **[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)**.

**TheAnswerToCancer.org** is a new CRI website that empowers patients and caregivers to learn more about immunotherapy and share their own immunotherapy experiences. The website contains a primer on clinical trials terms, available for download. To learn more, visit **[www.TheA2C.org/description-of-clinical-trials](http://www.TheA2C.org/description-of-clinical-trials)**.

## Why is my participation in an immunotherapy clinical trial important?

The decision to enroll in a clinical trial is a personal one. You may be interested in receiving the newest potential therapies, as well as the care of experienced clinical staff, or you may want to contribute to advancing medical knowledge that may help you now as well as help future patients. Whatever your reasons, exploring your clinical trial options can help you make informed decisions about your cancer treatment.

