

## Clinical Trial Phases

**Phase I:** The goal is to test the safety of the drug, finding the appropriate dose that produces the fewest side effects.

**Phase II:** Further assesses the safety of the drug and the effectiveness of the treatment.

**Phase III:** Compares the efficacy of the new treatment to the standard-of-care treatment.

**Phase IV:** Study that looks at drugs that have already been approved to get additional safety information and learn more about long-term benefits and side effects.

## Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Clinical Trial Participation

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the current standard of care?</li> <li>▪ What is the therapy being studied?</li> <li>▪ What are the inclusion criteria? Do I qualify?</li> <li>▪ What are the logistics: the schedule of therapy, location, etc.?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the alternative?</li> <li>▪ What are the known side effects of the therapy?</li> <li>▪ Why do you think this treatment is right for me?</li> <li>▪ What is the cost of joining the trials?</li> </ul> |
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## Glossary Terms

**Biomarker:** In reference to the measurement of your blood, body fluids, or tissue in order to assess one's health to determine proper care.

**Immunotherapy:** Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

**Liquid Biopsy:** Test on a sample of blood to look for cancer cells from a tumor that are circulating in the blood or for pieces of DNA from tumor cells that are in the blood.

**MRD (minimal residual disease):** Refers to the number of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) associated with residual cancer after treatment.

**PD-L1:** A receptor expressed on the surface of T cells. If PD-L1 is detected, the patient may benefit from immunotherapy.

**Placebo:** An inactive drug or treatment with no therapeutic benefit.

**Randomized Clinical Trial:** Trial in which participants are randomly divided into separate groups that compare different treatments or other interventions. The randomization means that the groups will be similar so that treatment effectiveness they receive can be compared more fairly.

**Standard of Care:** An established guideline that is consensus among experts as the most appropriate and/or effective treatment for a specific type and stage of cancer.

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