

Understanding Your Treatment Plan | Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- What are my standard-of-care treatment options?
- Is there a clinical trial that may be right for me?
- Are there radiation therapy or surgical options?
- Are there chemotherapy-sparing options?
- How is the treatment administered, and where will I receive the therapy?
- Who should I call if something happens on the weekend or on a holiday?

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 to learn more about long-term benefits and side effects.

Understanding Clinical Trial Terminology

Placebos are rarely used in cancer clinical trials. But when a patient receives a placebo, **they will also receive the standard of care treatment** for their type of cancer. **A standard of care** treatment has consensus among experts as the most appropriate and/or effective treatment for a specific type and stage of cancer. Learn more about Placebos in Cancer Clinical Trials at [cancer.net](https://www.cancer.net).

Glossary

Biomarker Testing (molecular testing): Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

BRCA 1, BRCA 2: Inherited mutated genes linked to hereditary prostate cancer.

Germline Mutations: A hereditary mutation, passed directly from a parent to a child at the time of conception. Cancer caused by germline mutations is called inherited cancer and accounts for about 5% to 20% of all cancers.

Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR) Pathway: A pathway that is frequently mutated in men with advanced prostate cancer.

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

PARP Inhibitors: A type of targeted treatment that inhibits the enzyme poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase.

PSMA PET Scan: An imaging test that is used to detect prostate cancer anywhere in the body.

Somatic Mutation: Mutations that can occur in any of the cells of the body but are not hereditary. These mutations may, in some cases, cause cancer or other diseases.



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