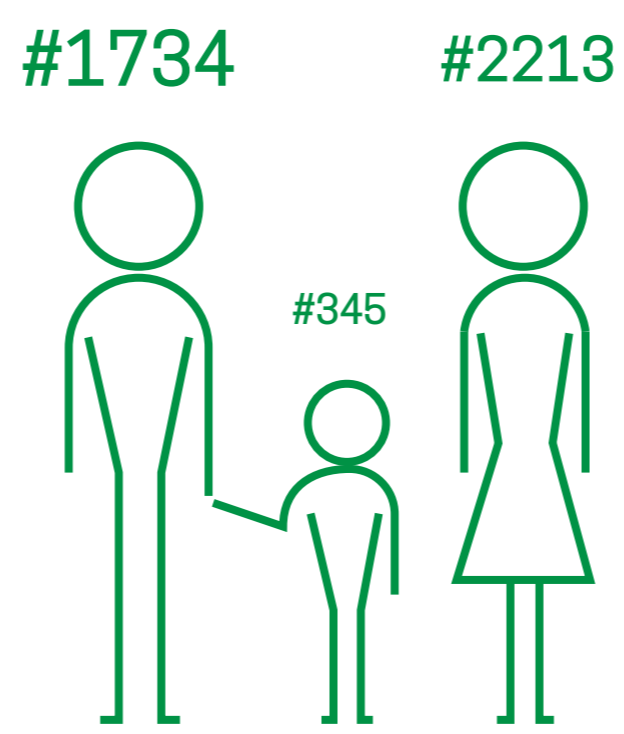




PROJECT INNOVATION

Debunking Common Myths About Cancer Clinical Trials

One of the reasons more cancer patients don't take part in clinical trials is due to some common misperceptions about how these studies are conducted. Here's a look at some of the myths that surround cancer clinical trials so you can separate fact from fiction.



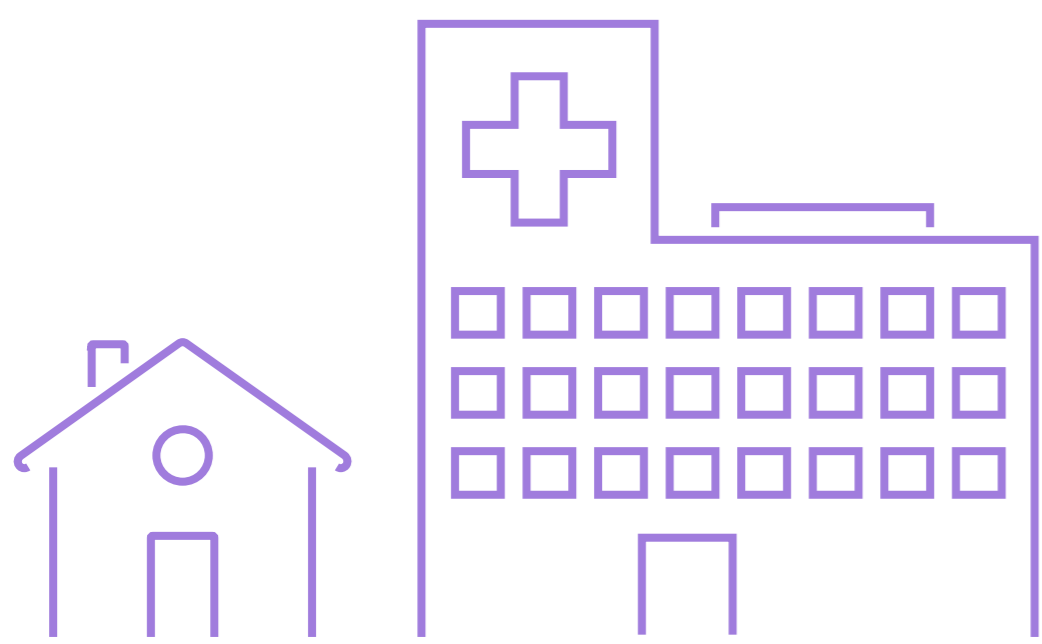
Myth: You are treated as a number when you take part in a clinical trial

Fact: Actually, the opposite is true. The research team is required to answer all your questions and make sure you have all the information you need to make decisions about your treatment. You will also have the name of a key contact person that is available anytime to help you. In reality, you and other patients like you are what makes cancer clinical trials possible.



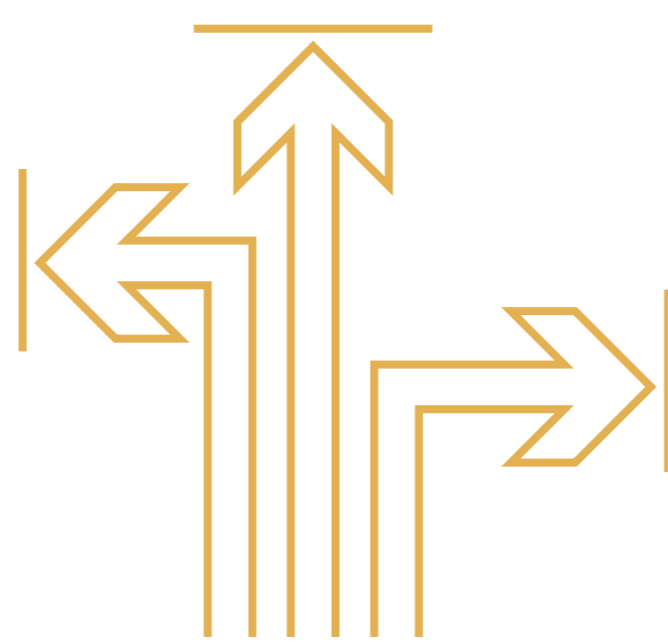
Myth: You could be given a "sugar pill" instead of a cancer drug

Fact: The simple fact is that placebos are never used in place of treatment in cancer clinical trials. Rather, all patients who join a clinical trial are given the best cancer treatment options available or the chance to receive a new treatment being considered.



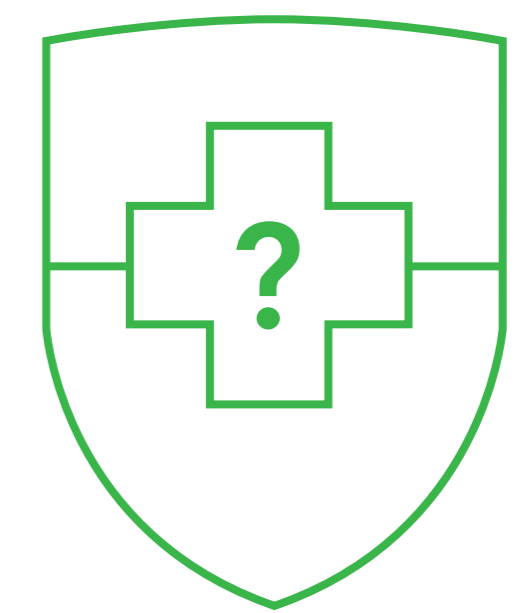
Myth: Taking part in a clinical trial requires living near a large hospital or having to travel to the center for treatment

Fact: Today, many clinical trials take place at local hospitals, cancer clinics and doctors' offices, meaning patients enrolled in these studies can get expert medical care in their own communities.



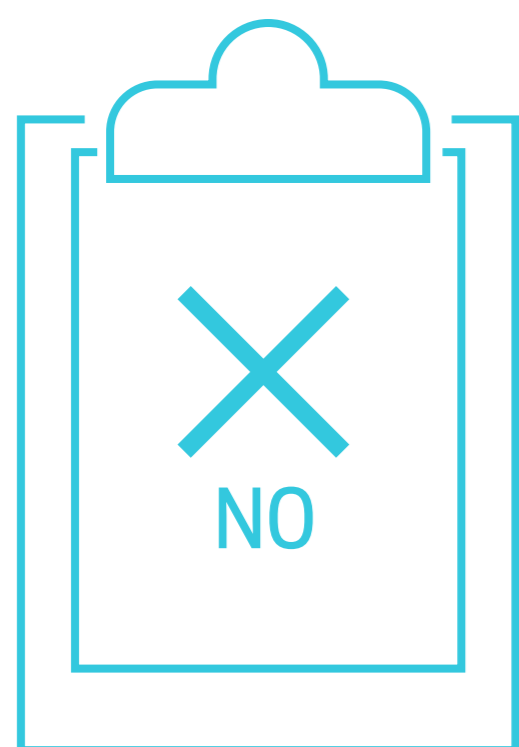
Myth: Clinical trials only make sense when patients have a terminal cancer or don't have other treatment options

Fact: Actually, clinical trials are available for all types and stages of cancer, including for newly diagnosed patients. In fact, today, many cancer patients choose to receive their first cancer treatment in a clinical trial.



Myth: Many health insurance plans won't cover a clinical trial

Fact: What is also not well understood is that when cancer patients enroll in clinical trials, the cost of the tests, procedures, drugs, and extra doctor visits are often covered by the sponsor of the study or insurance – which can be the National Cancer Institute, a research organization or a drug company. In many instances, a sponsor will also pay for other expenses, such as travel costs.



Myth: Medicare does not cover the costs of participation in a clinical trial

Fact: Medicare has been covering these costs since June 2000. Many states also have mandatory coverage requirements.



Myth: Once you enroll in a clinical trial, you can't leave the study

Fact: At any time, you can change your mind and leave a cancer clinical trial for any reason, without giving up access to other treatment.

The good news is that all cancer patients taking part in a clinical trial get state-of-the-art cancer treatment and possibly, more effective, therapy not yet available to all patients. That is why it is important to learn about the options for enrolling in a clinical trial and have a conversation with your doctor. By participating in a clinical trial, you will not only get excellent care but you will have the peace of mind that you are helping others.

Sources:
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Montana Cancer Consortium
Athens Regional Health System