

Dispelling Myths about Clinical Trials

A Web Educational Program for Physicians

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By

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2003 Breast Cancer Estimates for Women American Cancer Society

211,300 NEW CASES



3% Melanoma of Skin

3% Thyroid

32% Breast

12% Lung and Bronchus

2% Pancreas

11% Colon and Rectum

4% Ovary

6% Uterus

2% Urinary

4% Non-Hodgkin's
Lymphoma

20% All Other Sites

39,800 DEATHS



2% Brain

15% Breast

25% Lung and Bronchus

6% Pancreas

11% Colon and Rectum

5% Ovary

3% Uterus

2% Urinary

4% Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

4% Leukemia

2% Multiple Myeloma

23% All Other Sites

Improvements in breast cancer detection and treatment are a direct consequence of:

- Clinical trials
- Women who entered those trials



Less than 5% of women with breast cancer who are eligible for clinical trials choose to enter a trial.

WHY?



Myths and Misconceptions about Clinical Trials



All clinical trials have placebos.

FALSE!



Clinical trials are only conducted at major universities and cancer centers.

FALSE!



Clinical trials are only for patients for whom all other treatment has failed.

FALSE!



Patients in clinical trials are
like “guinea pigs.”

FALSE!



Satisfaction levels of patients in clinical trials:

- Good or excellent treatment — 97%
- Patient willing to advocate for the clinical trial — 75%

Why do patients enter clinical trials?

- High quality of care.
- Altruism—the unselfish desire to benefit others.

Where can I find details on a specific clinical trial?

- National Cancer Institute
 - 800-4-CANCER
(800-422-6237)
 - www.cancer.gov
- www.trialcheck.org
- www.clinicaltrials.com

Barriers for Primary Care Providers

- Minimal experience with clinical trials.
- Fear of:
 - financial liability
 - medical responsibility or liability
- No perceived role.

Possible Solutions

- Short term:
 - streamline the process
 - minimize logistical barriers
 - improve communication



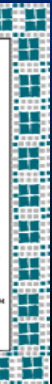
Possible Solutions

■ Longer term

- national effort to educate the public about clinical trials
- improved recognition for trial participants



Make clinical trials a first
choice, not a last resort.



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