

Frequently Asked Questions about Clinical Trials and Stroke

What is a stroke?

A stroke is a brain attack that occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain is stopped. Without blood and oxygen, brain cells die. Strokes can damage areas of the brain that control everything we do — from speaking, writing and reading, to walking and even breathing.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of adult disability. This year more than 750,000 Americans will have a stroke, and 160,000 will die.

“I want to make a difference in the way stroke is treated and help future generations live a healthier life.” - Clinical Trial Participant

What is a clinical trial?

A clinical trial is a research study to test medicines or medical devices to find out if they are safe and effective before doctors can prescribe them for the public.

How are drugs tested?

Guided by regulations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), a drug must go through many different tests to prove it is safe and effective. All clinical trials are based on a set of rules called a protocol. The protocol describes what types of people may participate in the trial. It also describes what tests, procedures and medicines will be used, when they will be used, and for how long they will be used (the length of the study).

If you participate in a clinical trial, you will be seen regularly by doctors and research staff who monitor your health and make sure the medicine or medical device is safe and working properly.

You can withdraw from the clinical trial at any time.

Are clinical trials safe?

The government has strict guidelines to protect people who choose to participate in clinical trials or research studies. Every clinical trial in the U.S. must be approved and monitored by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to make sure the patient's risks are as low as possible and are worth any potential benefits. Experienced doctors who have been trained are called Principle Investigators (PI). The PIs closely monitor the patients in the clinical trial.

Before participating in a trial, you must sign an informed consent form. The form gives detailed information about the study, medicines and procedures. This is to make sure you have been given complete information about the trial and that you understand what is expected of you.



Why should I participate in a clinical trial?

- By participating in a stroke clinical trial, you will:
- Receive all medical visits related to the study free of charge, including physical examinations, doctor visits, medicines in the study, and laboratory tests
 - Take an active role in your own health care
 - Gain access to new treatments that are not available to the public
 - Obtain expert medical care at leading health care facilities during the trial
 - Help others by contributing to medical research

How do I find out about clinical trials?

There are several websites that list clinical trials that are looking for patients:

www.stroke.org
www.clinicaltrials.gov
www.centerwatch.com



Know the symptoms of stroke!

- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg — especially on one side of the body
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Call 911 if you see or have any of these symptoms!

Treatment can be more effective if given quickly!

Use the following tool to help you recognize the symptoms and think F.A.S.T.:

FACE

Ask the person to smile.
Does one side of the face droop?

ARMS

Ask the person to raise both arms.
Does one arm drift downward?

SPEECH

Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.
Are the words slurred? Can the patient repeat the sentence correctly?

TIME

If the person shows any of these symptoms, time is important. Call 911 or get to the hospital fast. Brain cells are dying.



What should I
know about
Clinical Trials?



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Association**

1-800-STROKES
(1-800-787-6537)
www.stroke.org
email: info@stroke.org



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