

RESEARCH SAVES LIVES

Clinical trials are an important step in discovering new ways to treat breast cancer. Whether a new therapy, procedure or test becomes part of standard treatment for breast cancer depends largely on clinical trial results.

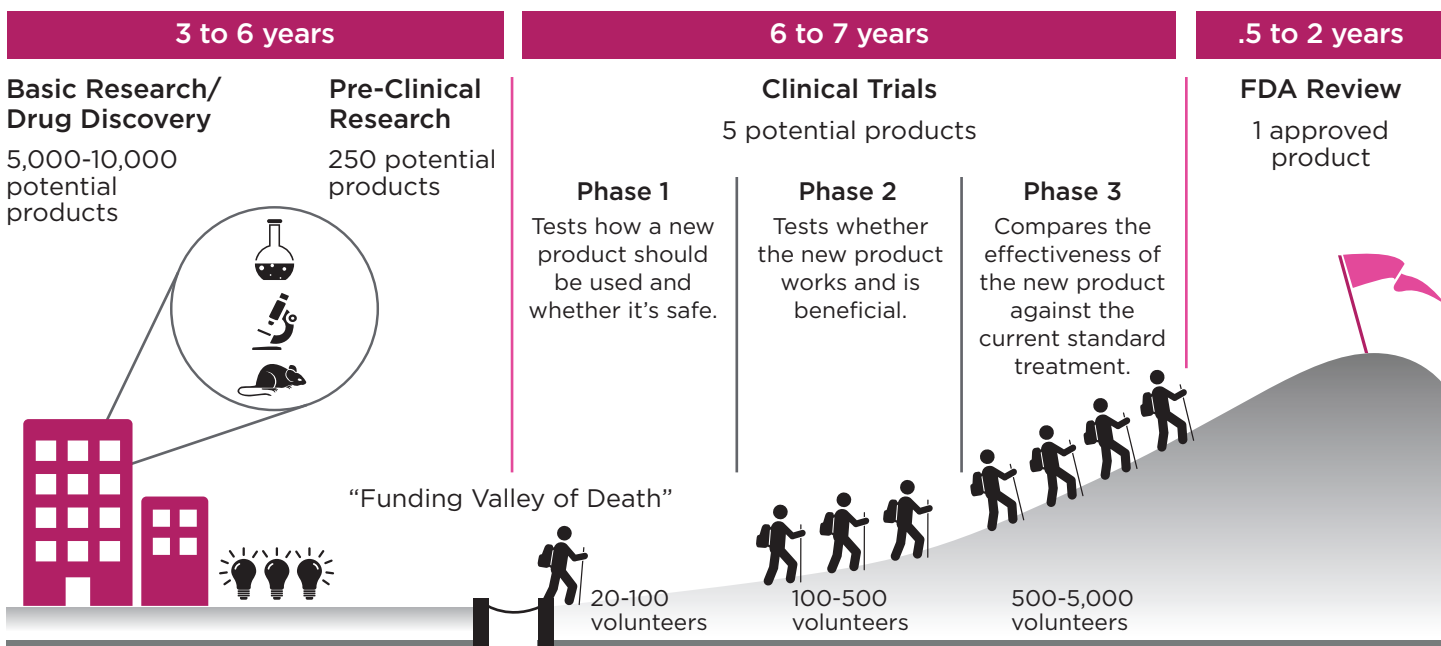
What is a clinical trial? Clinical trials or studies involve people who volunteer to take part in these research studies. There are two types of clinical trials: interventional and observational. In an interventional study, the participant is assigned to a group that receives one or more interventions such as a new drug, device, procedure or diagnostic test, to test its safety and efficacy. In an observational study, participants are not assigned to an intervention – they are only observed and the outcomes measured by researchers. These types of clinical studies are often used to identify cancer risk factors or behaviors among different populations, or identify survivorship issues.


Clinical trials investigate more than just new treatments. They may also test other products such as new tools, devices or methods to assess risk, prevent or diagnose breast cancer. In some trials, such as observational trials, the product of the trial is knowledge, or an approach, that may contribute to improvements in breast cancer care such as information about risk or survivorship support.

How do clinical trials work? Clinical trials are part of the enormous effort needed to bring various products or knowledge about breast cancer care to patients. The long journey—which can take up to 15 years and cost more than \$2.5 billion—begins in the lab, where thousands of scientists spend years testing tens of thousands of ideas. Through a long and difficult process of elimination, researchers narrow their ideas down to just a few. Next, resources and funding must be secured to test the most promising ideas in clinical trials.

Clinical trials are then conducted through an orderly series of steps or phases that build on one another. Each phase is designed to answer certain questions. Many volunteers are needed to take part in clinical trials. Those who participate help further the knowledge base that helps improve breast cancer care. At the end of this long journey, just one product or idea, out of thousands, is brought to patients.







Clinical trials are at the heart of all medical advances. Conducting trials is a long, expensive process filled with stops and starts, but today’s clinical trials will lead to new and improved standards of care for breast cancer in the future.



 Read more about the importance and benefits of clinical trials, and how to take part in a clinical trial. [Learn more about Clinical Trials](#)

 For more information, call the Komen **1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636)** [Clinical Trial Information Helpline](#)

There are many types of cancer clinical trials, each designed to answer different research questions.

-  **Risk Assessment** trials explore how a person's genes make him or her more or less likely to develop breast cancer. They may also identify the causes, patterns or incidence of breast cancer.
-  **Prevention** trials look for better ways to reduce risk and prevent breast cancer from developing. They may study medicines, vitamins, vaccines, minerals or lifestyle changes.
-  **Screening** trials test new ways to better detect abnormalities in the breast, when they may be more easily treated. Screening trials may test new technologies, blood tests (biomarkers) or methods to improve screening rates.
-  **Diagnostic** trials test better ways to identify or diagnose breast cancer. They may identify or test methods such as biomarker tests to help predict response to therapy or whether cancer will return or progress.
-  **Treatment** trials test new treatments or new ways of using existing treatments, such as new drugs, improved approaches to surgery or radiation, vaccines and combinations of treatments.
-  **Supportive Care** trials explore ways to improve comfort and quality of life for people living with cancer, their loved ones and caregivers during and after treatment.

OUR RESEARCH INVESTMENT: (1982-2020)

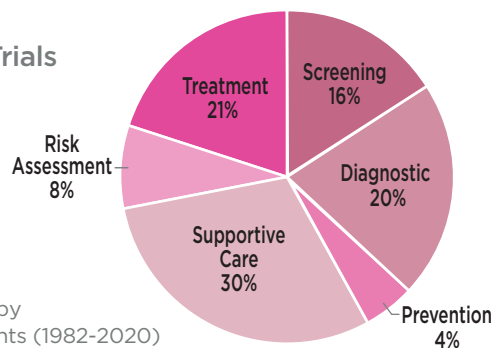
Since 1982, Komen research grants have supported more than more than **500 clinical trials**

What We're Investigating






- Testing several new drugs and combinations of existing drugs — such as immunotherapies—to better treat triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) and metastatic breast cancer.
- Testing innovative health care delivery methods to optimize treatment, improve care and reduce breast cancer disparities in low income and minority populations.
- Testing whether a breast cancer screening device — which uses light and sound to create a 3-D image — is more effective than mammography at detecting breast cancer in women with dense breasts.

Types of Clinical Trials



Supported by Komen Grants (1982-2020)

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED from Komen-funded clinical trials

-  Ultrasound tomography (uses sound waves to create 3-D images) or Molecular Breast Imaging (MBI) can be more effective at detecting breast cancer than mammography, especially for women with dense breasts.
-  Lymphoseek® is more effective at identifying which lymph nodes contain cancer and results in fewer side effects than the traditional diagnostic test, which uses blue dye and radioactive tracer.
-  Findings from the [TAILORx](#) clinical trial used the Oncotype Dx biomarker test and big data to show that 70 percent of women with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer may not need chemotherapy.

\$13.75 million to the **Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium (TBCRC)**



19 Clinical sites working together to conduct innovative, biologically-driven clinical research. TBCRC has conducted more than:



50 Clinical trials

Learn more about breast cancer

Learn More About Komen-funded Research

Get Involved & Support Komen Research