

What happens in different phases of clinical trials?				
Phase	What doctors want to learn	Types of treatments usually being tested	Do people in the clinical trial get different treatments?	Length and number of people
Phase I	<p>If the new treatment is safe.</p> <p>The highest dose of a treatment that patients can get without major side effects or problems.</p>	A new drug or procedure, new medical device, possibly a new test or surgery.	Everyone gets the same treatment. But people might get different strengths or amounts.	<p>10-30 people</p> <p>Several months to 1 year</p>
Phase II	If the treatment is effective	A new drug, medical device, eating habit change, surgery, medical test, or a combination of treatments	People sometimes get different treatments. This depends on the clinical trial.	<p>Up to several hundred people</p> <p>About 2 years</p>
Phase III	If the new treatment works better than the regular treatment	A new drug, medical device, eating habit change, surgery, medical test, or a combination of treatments	Yes. Doctors compare the new treatment or treatments with the regular one.	<p>300 to 3,000 people</p> <p>Several years</p>
Phase IV	What happens once the treatment is in use	A new drug, medical device, eating habit change, surgery, medical test, or a combination of treatments	No. Doctors collect information on what happens to people using a specific treatment.	<p>Thousands of people</p> <p>Years</p>

Source: <http://www.cancer.net/clinicaltrials>