

ClinicalTrials.gov



Linking the Public to Medical Research

We have all heard about the desperate situation of a friend, family member or neighbor who is confronting a serious illness for which there seems to be no treatment options. But now there is a way for patients and their families to get the latest information about clinical trials through a simple Internet search.

A National Library of Medicine /National Institutes of Health database about clinical trials gives information to the public about studies in which new drugs, diagnostic procedures, vaccines and experimental therapies are tested in people to see if they are safe and effective. ClinicalTrials.gov lists tens of thousands of clinical trials. The trials are funded or conducted by the research institutes and centers of the NIH, drug and device companies, teaching hospitals, and private foundations.

Here's how it works. After you enter the ClinicalTrials.gov Web site, you can search for a clinical trial in a number of ways, such as by the name of the disease, the location, type of experimental intervention, or sponsoring organization. The results will show you what studies are being conducted, whether a trial is recruiting, the purpose of the study, where and when it will take place, whom to contact and sources for more information.

ClinicalTrials.gov resulted from a Federal law in 1997 requiring the creation of a registry for drug trials. It was further expanded by law in 2007 to require the registration and results reporting of certain drug and device trials. Since ClinicalTrials.gov launched in February 2000 it has been a huge success—tens of thousands of people log on to the web site each day. The site is updated regularly with new information being added every day.

ClinicalTrials.gov puts all this information in one place as science moves closer to finding new treatments and making medical advances.



U.S. National Library of Medicine

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