



Should I join a clinical trial with the ACTG?

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## What is a clinical trial?

Clinical trials look at *new* ways to prevent, detect or treat disease. Clinical trials may study new drugs, combinations of drugs, or new ways to use existing treatments. The goal of clinical trials is to find out if a new test or medication is *safe* and *works* better than the standard treatment.

## What types of trials are available?

There are many types of clinical trials. Some look at new anti-*HIV* medicines, while others look at new combinations of existing drugs. Other trials look at ways to prevent *HIV*-related complications and side effects. There are trials for people who have *HIV* along with other infections, like *hepatitis C* and *tuberculosis*. There are even trials that are looking at possible ways to *cure HIV* infection.

*New clinical trials open on a regular basis. Keep checking back for new trials.*

*To learn about all of our currently enrolling trials, scan the QR code below with your smartphone, or visit:*

[actgnetwork.org/trials\\_open\\_enrollment](http://actgnetwork.org/trials_open_enrollment)



## What are my rights?

Everyone who is thinking about joining a clinical trial will be given all of the key facts *before* they join. A member of the research team will explain the study and answer all questions. Before joining a trial, a person must also sign an *informed consent* form. This form explains the trial, such as the purpose, the duration of the study, the number of study visits, any required procedures, any risks, and who to contact for more information. The document also describes a person's rights, including the right to not join or to quit the trial at any time.

## How might I benefit?

People join clinical trials for many reasons. Some people want to get more *involved* in their own healthcare. Others want *access* to experimental treatments along with expert medical care. Sometimes people join just to contribute to a better understanding of *HIV* and its treatment.

## What are the risks?

There also may be risks related to participating in a clinical trial. These risks will be discussed *before* a decision is made about whether to join.

## Who should join?

New drugs or procedures may work better for some people than for others. That is why it is important that clinical trials have men and women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Then, when everyone is represented, researchers can learn how a drug or procedure works – or does not work – for some people. This information is needed to ensure everyone benefits from clinical trials.



## What is the ACTG?

The **AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG)** Network is the largest *HIV* clinical trials network in the world. Established in 1987, the Network provides clinical trials for the treatment of *HIV* infection in adults. The ACTG is a world leader in developing new life-saving and life-enhancing medical treatments based on clinical trial results. The ACTG is made up of Clinical Research Sites located throughout the world. The ACTG is sponsored by the US government through the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**.

## How else can I participate?

Every *Clinical Research Site* has a **Community Advisory Board (CAB)**. The CAB is made up of community members from the area where the Clinical Research Site is located. The CAB works to *educate* the community about clinical trials. It also serves as an important *link* between the community, trial volunteers, and researchers, and can impact research plans. Ask any of the site's study staff for more information about joining the CAB.