

Clinical Trials at Upper Valley Medical Center

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Participation in National Cancer Institute sponsored clinical trials is an option available to cancer patients at Upper Valley Medical Center (UVMC) through the Dayton Clinical Oncology Program (DCOP). All of the clinical trials are reviewed by an Institutional Review Board from Wright State University. Clinical Trials are designed to answer questions regarding new ways to prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat cancer. The mission of DCOP is “to reduce cancer incidence and mortality through improved treatment and prevention by offering national state-of-the-art cancer research to the local communities.”

There are several phases of clinical trials, Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III. Phase I trials are the introduction of a new drug and have a relatively small number of participants. These are typically patients that have exhausted all other treatment options and no other options are available. Phase II trials study the effectiveness of the drugs on the cancer and measure any side effects of the treatments being tested. Phase III trials compare the results of the new treatment regimen with the current standard of care. These test if the new treatment regimen has better survival rates, fewer side effects, and possibly require fewer treatments than the current standard. Currently at UVMC we have Phase II and Phase III clinical trials available to our patients.

The general public is usually unaware or misinformed of cancer clinical trials. Most adults in the US agree that clinical research is important and participants are

making a significant contribution to science. Although they agree with this statement, some still view clinical trials as being a “guinea pig” for medical research. The truth is patients are always provided with at least the standard of care or a new treatment (thought to be better than the standard treatment). Patients on cancer clinical trials are monitored closely and kept informed of any changes. The trials are scrutinized for patient safety and ensure the patient is constantly informed and knowledgeable regarding treatment decisions. Among US adults surveyed who have participated in cancer clinical trials, 84% stated they would do so again if given the chance. Currently at UVMC we have 47 patients who are actively being followed on cancer clinical trials. Some patients are on a couple of trials, not only for their cancers but their quality of life and side effect management. For more information on the types of clinical trials available at UVMC or to refer a patient for involvement in a study, please contact Robin Holcomb, RN, BSN, OCN at (937) 440-4822.



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“Every evening I turn my worries
over to God.

He’s going to be up all night anyway.”

- Mary C. Crowley