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## **Sarcoma - Alveolar Soft Part and Cardiac - Latest Research**

[1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 09/2013

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about ASPS and cardiac sarcoma and how to treat them. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Doctors are working to learn more about ASPS and cardiac sarcoma, ways to prevent them, how to best treat these diseases, and how to provide the best care to people diagnosed with either disease. The following areas of research may include new options for patients through [clinical trials](#) [3]. Always talk with your doctor about the diagnostic and treatment options best for you.

**Targeted therapy.** As described in the [Treatment Options](#) [4] section, targeted therapy is a treatment that targets the tumor's specific genes, proteins, or the tissue environment that contributes to tumor growth and survival. Clinical trials are currently focusing on the use of angiogenesis inhibitors, a type of targeted therapy that is focused on stopping angiogenesis, to treat ASPS. Currently two of these drugs are being tested for people with ASPS: cediranib and sunitinib (Sutent).

**Immunotherapy.** Immunotherapy (also called biologic therapy) is designed to boost the body's natural defenses to fight the cancer. It uses materials made either by the body or in a laboratory to improve, target, or restore immune system function. Immunotherapy is being researched as a treatment option for ASPS. Learn more about [immunotherapy](#) [5].

**Chemotherapy.** New drugs are also being researched for the treatment of ASPS.

**Autotransplantation.** For cardiac sarcoma, researchers are looking at autotransplantation, a procedure where the person's own heart is removed from the body during surgery so cardiac sarcoma can be more easily removed from the heart. After completely removing the tumor from the heart, the heart is put back into the patient. There is no need for immunosuppressive drugs because the person's own heart is used in the procedure.

**Supportive care.** Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side effects of current sarcoma treatments in order to improve patients' comfort and quality of life.

To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or [search online clinical trial databases now](#) [6]. Please note this link will take you outside of this guide.

*The next section addresses how to cope with the symptoms of the disease or the side effects of its treatment. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Coping with Side Effects, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.*

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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/sarcoma-alveolar-soft-part-and-cardiac/latest-research>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18444>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18443>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24726>

[6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24878>