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[**Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor - GIST - Latest Research**](#)

[1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 12/2015

ON THIS PAGE: You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about this type of tumor and how to treat it. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Doctors are working to learn more about how to best treat a GIST and provide the best care to people diagnosed with GIST. 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.

- **New drugs.** Research continues to find new drugs for GIST, particularly new targeted therapies. Several different drugs that target proteins that help tumor cells survive have recently been or are being researched. Drugs that affect tumor blood supply are also being studied to treat GIST. Treatments working through the immune system are also of interest in GIST.
- **Post-operative treatment length.** The best length of time to continue imatinib treatment after surgery is unknown. Doctors are evaluating a recently completed clinical trial to learn whether giving patients 5 years of imatinib after surgery leads to better results compared with 3 years of imatinib after surgery.

Looking for More About Latest Research?

If you would like additional information about the latest areas of research regarding GIST, explore these related items that take you outside of this guide:

- To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or [search online clinical trial databases now](#) [4].
- [Review research](#) [5] announced at ASCO's Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium and Annual Meeting.
- Visit the website of the [Conquer Cancer Foundation](#) [6] to find out how to help support research for every cancer type. Please note this link takes you to a separate ASCO website.

The [next section in this guide is Coping with Side Effects](#) [7] and it offers some guidance in how to cope with the physical, emotional, and social changes that GIST and its treatment can bring. Or, use the menu on the side of your screen to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/gastrointestinal-stromal-tumor-gist/latest-research>

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

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18877>

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

[5] http://www.cancer.net/research-and-advocacy/research-summaries?field_page_topic_tid_2=All&field_page_topi_c_tid=273&date_filter%5bvalue%5d%5byear%5d=

[6] <https://www.conquercancerfoundation.org/research-results>

[7] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18878>