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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], 12/2014

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 GISTs, ways to prevent them, how to best treat them, and how to provide the best care to people diagnosed with this 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.

New drugs. Research continues to find new drugs for GISTs, particularly new targeted therapies. Several different drugs that target proteins that help tumor cells survive have recently been or are being researched, such as ponatinib (Iclusig), a drug that is already approved by the FDA to treat specific types of leukemia. Drugs that affect tumor blood supply are also being studied to treat GISTs.

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

Looking for More About Latest Research?

If you would like additional information about the latest areas of research regarding GISTs, 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.

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.

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_topic_tid=273&date_filter%5bvalue%5d%5byear%5d=