

## **Mesothelioma - Latest Research** [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 05/2014

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about this type of cancer 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 mesothelioma, ways to prevent it, how to best treat it, 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 treatment approaches.** Researchers are evaluating new treatments for mesothelioma, including several promising new drugs, gene therapy, and immunotherapy. [Immunotherapy](#) [4] 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.

**Genetics of mesothelioma.** Research is underway to find genetic changes that may cause mesothelioma. Other studies focus on finding blood markers that could help detect early-stage mesothelioma. These blood markers are substances found in higher than normal amounts in the blood of someone with cancer.

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

### **Looking for More About the Latest Research?**

If you would like additional information about the latest areas of research regarding mesothelioma, explore this related item that takes you outside of this guide:

- To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or [search online clinical trial databases now](#) [5].

*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/mesothelioma/latest-research>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24863>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24726>
- [5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24878>