

## Uterine Cancer - Latest Research [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 08/2014

**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 uterine cancer, 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 Therapies.** The most notable development in the treatment of endometrial cancer, as with many tumors, is our increasing understanding of tumor genomics, which seeks to identify mutations in genes in the tumor that might "drive" or cause the tumor to grow. Testing can be done on your tumor sample to look for these mutations and the results will help decide whether your treatment options include a type of treatment called [targeted therapy](#) [4], including through clinical trials.

One such example in endometrial cancer has already shown that mutations in a pathway called PI3K/AKT/MTOR are commonly found, and patients with recurrent disease may benefit from using a drug that targets this pathway called everolimus (Afinitor, RAD001). Other drugs that target this pathway are also available.

Another type of targeted therapy recently shown to have activity for patients with endometrial cancer are called angiogenesis inhibitors, such as with the drug bevacizumab (Avastin) that targets blood vessel growth that feeds tumors as one mechanism of its action.

Other research includes [immunotherapy](#) [5], which are treatments designed to boost the body's natural defenses to fight the cancer. There is much interest in a specific area of immunotherapy called "checkpoint inhibitors," such as PD-1 or CTLA4 targeted agents. Examples are nivolumab or ipilimumab (Yervoy). These agents help the immune system activate and often cause tumors to shrink. Some of these agents work better in combination with other treatment types, and clinical trials about each agent and different combinations for uterine cancer, are ongoing.

**Supportive care.** Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side

effects of current small bowel cancer treatments in order to improve patients' comfort and quality of life.

Patients are strongly encouraged to talk with the doctor about clinical trials to consider when treatment options are being made.

To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or [search online clinical trial databases now](#) [6].

*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/uterine-cancer/latest-research>

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

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19316>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/30686>

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

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