

Myelodysplastic Syndromes - MDS - Latest Research [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 10/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about MDS 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 MDS, 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. Always talk with your doctor about the diagnostic and treatment options best for you.

New drugs and drug combinations. Researchers are looking at treatments with the following:

- Azacitidine given by mouth and in combination with other drugs
- Decitabine in combination with other drugs
- Lenalidomide in patients who do not have abnormalities of chromosome 5
- Drugs called histone deacetylase inhibitors
- Drugs called polo-kinase inhibitors
- Different approaches to [stem cell transplantation](#) [3]

Some of these medications, such as azacitidine, decitabine, and lenalidomide, have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of MDS and are now being evaluated in different doses and schedules and in combination with other drugs.

Supportive care. Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side effects of current MDS 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 MDS, 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](#) [4].

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/myelodysplastic-syndromes-mds/latest-research>

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

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24717>

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