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<http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/myelodysplastic-syndromes-mds/latest-research>

[Myelodysplastic Syndromes - MDS - Latest Research](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 11/2015

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.

- **Palliative 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 these related items 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]. Also, the [MDS Foundation](#) [5] designates certain treatment centers as [MDS Centers of Excellence](#) [6], which offer clinical trials and specialized care for people with MDS.
- Visit the website of the [Conquer Cancer Foundation](#) [7] to find out how to help support research for cancer. Please note this link takes you to a separate ASCO website.

The [next section in this guide is Coping with Side Effects](#) [8] and it offers some guidance in how to cope with the physical, emotional, and social changes that MDS 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/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>

[5] <http://www.mds-foundation.org/>

[6] <http://www.mds-foundation.org/mds-centeres-of-excellence/>

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

[8] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19389>