

Thymoma - 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 thymoma, 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 drugs. Researchers are currently studying several new treatments and treatment methods for patients with thymoma and thymic carcinoma. For patients with advanced thymoma or thymic carcinoma, several new drugs are being studied in clinical trials, including amrubicin, belinostat (Beleodaq), cixutumumab, everolimus (Afinitor), PHA-848125AC (milicilib), saracatinib, and sunitinib (Sutent). Additionally, a new drug that targets stem cells, BBI608, is being researched.

Different combinations of treatments. For patients with advanced thymoma or thymic carcinoma that has not been previously treated, researchers are looking at combining chemotherapy with radiation therapy before surgery, and combining chemotherapy with cetuximab (Erbix) before surgery to increase the effectiveness of chemotherapy and to make surgery possible for more people with advanced thymoma.

Cancer vaccines [4]. Cancer vaccines are treatments that help a person's immune system fight cancer. For thymoma, researchers are studying the effectiveness of an experimental vaccine combined with the chemotherapy drug cyclophosphamide and the anti-inflammatory drug celecoxib (Celebrex).

International collaboration. Rare diseases like thymoma are a challenge for researchers because of the small number of patients who have the disease. Because of this, doctors and researchers around the world are working together to study thymoma, collect information, and design clinical trials through the [International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group](#) [5].

Myasthenia gravis research. Studies are underway to learn more about this condition (see [Overview](#) [6]), its link with thymoma, and ways to treat it.

Supportive care. Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side effects of current thymoma 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 thymoma, 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](#) [7].

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/thymoma/latest-research>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19680>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24721>
- [5] <http://www.itmig.org/>
- [6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19673>
- [7] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24878>