

What happens in different phases of clinical trials?				
Phase	What doctors want to learn	Type of treatment being tested	Do people in the clinical trial get different treatments?	Length and number of people
Phase I	<p>If the new drug or treatment is safe.</p> <p>The highest dose of a treatment that people can get without major side effects or problems.</p>	A new drug, medical device, test or surgery.	Everyone gets the same treatment. But people might get different strengths or amounts.	<p>10 to 30 people</p> <p>Several months to a year.</p>
Phase II	If the new drug or treatment works.	A new drug, medical device, test, surgery, or combination of treatments.	People sometimes get different treatments. This depends on the clinical trial.	<p>Up to several hundred people.</p> <p>About 2 years.</p>
Phase III	If the new drug or treatment works better than the regular treatment.	A new drug, medical device, surgery, test, or combination of treatments.	People get different treatments. Doctors compare the new drug or treatment with the regular one.	<p>300 to 3,000 people.</p> <p>Several years.</p>
Phase IV	What happens once doctors are using the new drug or treatment.	A new drug, medical device, surgery, test, or combination of treatments.	People do not get different treatments. Doctors only collect information on what happens with the treatment they are studying.	<p>Thousands of people.</p> <p>Several years to many years.</p>

Source: <http://www.cancer.net/clinicaltrials>