Beginning the Study

After your eligibility has been confirmed, you will be registered in a study. You will then be assigned to a treatment group by the research organization. Southwest’s Cancer Research team will walk you through the registration and randomization process and oversee your treatments.

During the Study

As you receive the treatment, your doctor will continue to observe you. Data about treatment, lab tests and progress are collected and included in the research database. Some studies last for several months, while others may last throughout a patient’s lifetime. However long the study is, we always honor the patient’s right to confidentiality.

For More Information

For more information about participating in a study, please contact your doctor or Southwest’s Regional Cancer Center:

Cancer Research
505 NE 87th Ave., Suite 350
Vancouver, WA 98664
360.514.2155
www.swmedicalcenter.org/cancerresearch

You Can Help

Through the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation, you can support research efforts, genetic testing and counseling programs, outreach services, and more.

www.swmedicalcenter.org/foundation
360.514.3106

The Southwest Difference

The diagnosis of cancer can be overwhelming. You and your loved ones may be facing many questions, medical treatment options and lifestyle changes.

At Southwest’s Regional Cancer Center, we believe that superb cancer care goes beyond the latest technology and innovative treatments. We are here to help you and your loved ones keep the best quality of your life throughout your journey with cancer.

Cancer Support Group
360.514.2174
www.swmedicalcenter.org/cancersupport
Investigational Studies

Southwest’s Cancer Research team works every day to help patients and physicians find the best treatment options available. Southwest’s Regional Cancer Center offers preventative and treatment-based research studies for patients who qualify.

Investigational studies are specific treatment plans that may study new drugs or combinations of drugs that have already been approved. Other studies may involve other forms of treatment, such as radiation. Before approved drugs, devices or other forms of cancer treatment become readily available, they must go through extensive scientific testing for safety and effectiveness. For example, drugs are first tested using computer models, then in animals, and finally in humans. Each study is well-designed and monitored by physicians for safety.

Because research-based information comes from these studies, they are called clinical trials. Each study is carefully designed to answer treatment-related questions in hopes of finding new and better ways to help cancer patients and people at risk for developing cancer.

Southwest’s Cancer Research team helps physicians identify patients who would potentially be eligible to participate in approved clinical trials that are open here. These include:

- Cancer prevention trials
- Quality of life studies, to look at the ways that cancer treatments affect your well-being
- Symptom management
- Targeted therapies, such as with genetic testing
- Pharmaceutical drug studies

Worldwide Partnerships

Southwest’s Regional Cancer Center is an active participant in Columbia River Oncology Program (CROP), a National Cancer Institute (NCI) accredited consortium of eight local hospitals bringing clinical trials to the Vancouver/Portland area. Through CROP, Southwest is associated with:

- Children’s Oncology Group (COG)
- Clinical Trial Support Unit (CTSU)
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Program (NSABP)
- Radiation Therapy Oncology Group
- Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG)
- University of Rochester
- Research studies and clinical trials worldwide

When our patients enroll in a clinical trial, many are followed for the rest of their lifetime. Others often opt for additional treatment on a clinical trial after completing their first study.

Southwest has been involved in cancer research since 1986. Today the first patient that Southwest put on a clinical study is still being followed, and we are happy to report that our patient remains disease-free.

“We have been part of many major clinical trials in America and the world. Clinical trials move medical knowledge ahead safely.”

—Beth Getman, RN, BSN, OCN, CCRP, Clinical Research Manager at Southwest

Applying to Participate in a Study

If you are interested in participating in a study, talk with your doctor. Here are some questions you may want to ask:

- Are there any clinical studies that I may be eligible for?
- What are the risks and benefits of participating in this study?
- Who monitors the safety of the study?
- What types of pre-screening tests, forms or other procedures are required?
- Am I a good candidate for the study? (You may want to ask yourself, why do you want to take part? What are your goals and expectations?)
- What is required of me?
- Are there any costs for me to be involved with the study?
- How long will the study last?
- Who can I contact for information or questions?

If you and your doctor decide that participation may be helpful to you, the Regional Cancer Center staff will determine if you qualify. Southwest’s Cancer Research team will meet with you, describe the study, and explain all the benefits, risks, costs and possible alternative treatments. Once you have a thorough understanding of what is involved, a written, informed consent is obtained confirming your participation.