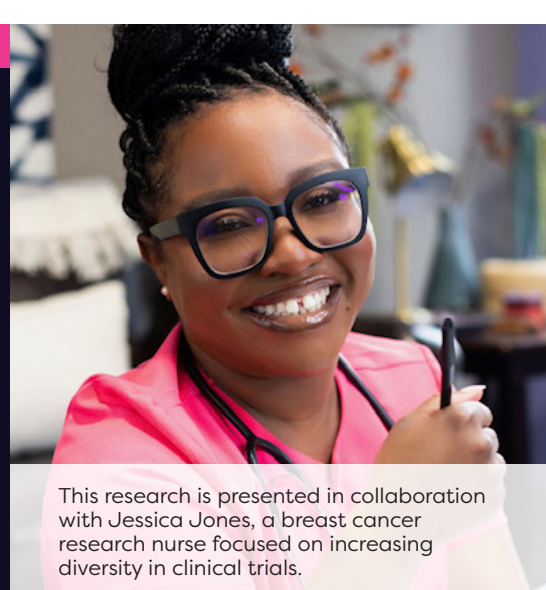


FACT OR FICTION? THE TRUTH ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS



This research is presented in collaboration with Jessica Jones, a breast cancer research nurse focused on increasing diversity in clinical trials.

Clinical trials are a driving force behind advancements in medicine. They support innovations in treatment and therapies for a wide range of health conditions. While these trials play a crucial role in advancing healthcare, there are also barriers surrounding them. Patients often cite concerns about participating in clinical trials that are rooted in misconception. If you're considering a trial or caring for a loved one who may be, here are a few common myths that may be holding you back. Ultimately, your treatment path is up to you and you alone.

MYTH #1

Clinical trials are unsafe and treat participants as guinea pigs.

FACT: Clinical trials are safe! They must adhere to stringent scientific and ethical standards. Before a trial can begin, it undergoes rigorous review by multiple regulatory bodies to ensure participant safety. Potential risks are always identified during the informed consent process, allowing participants to make informed decisions about their involvement.

MYTH #2

Researchers withhold crucial information about the trial.

FACT: Through informed consent, researchers are required to disclose any relevant information in a way that is understandable to the participant. As I mentioned before, because these trials go through rigorous reviews, researchers are not allowed to withhold critical information from patients.

MYTH #3

Participants might receive a placebo instead of the actual treatment.

FACT: While placebos are occasionally used in clinical trials, they are never given when an effective treatment already exists for the condition under investigation. A participant will always receive the normal standard of care for their condition and will not be left "untreated" for their conditions.

MYTH #4

Clinical trials are exclusively for those with terminal illnesses.

FACT: Clinical trials are not just a "last resort" option for participants. They offer hope and potential treatment options for individuals across the entire spectrum of healthcare needs. In fact, Molly MacDonald, Pink Fund's co-founder, participated in a clinical trial during her treatment for breast cancer. It allowed researchers to observe the side effects of two medications.

MYTH #5

Clinical trials create a financial burden for patients.

FACT: It's important to discuss costs with your care team. Many trials offer the necessary treatment at no cost to the patient. Pink Fund can help offset the costs of travel and living expenses during a clinical trial by providing financial support for household bills.

MYTH #6

Participants are obligated to remain in the study once enrolled.

FACT: Participants have the right to withdraw from a clinical trial at any stage without facing any consequences. Their autonomy and well-being are prioritized throughout the research process just as it is during all medical care.

MYTH #7

Clinical trials always involve invasive procedures.

FACT: Clinical trials vary in their procedures. Some trials are a series of surveys and observations, and others involve more complex treatment plans and interventions. placebo and the likelihood of its use in the trial.

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