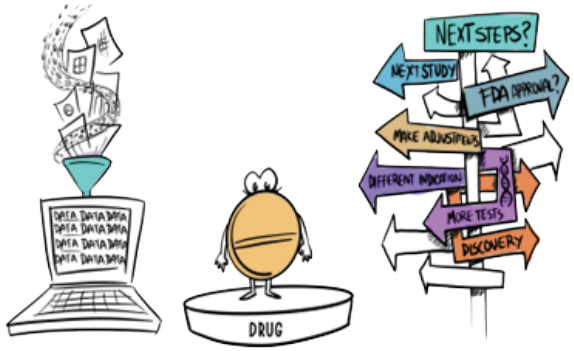
But when you hear "clinical research study" or "clinical trial," words like "experimental," or "guinea pig" may come to mind. However, that is not how patients are treated in studies.

As part of a study, doctors follow a protocol, which is the manual on how to do the study. The protocol is approved and overseen by many experts to make sure it is followed exactly as described, because **your safety is our priority**.



A well-designed study can help answer many questions about the drug and its safety, giving researchers and doctors information about what to do next.

All potentially eligible patients are invited to consider a study, regardless of race, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability status.

There are many reasons why a study may or may not be right for you. Talk about options with your doctor and your family.

YOU decide what is right for YOU.

For more information about clinical studies, ask your doctor today!

WHAT IS A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY?

UNDERSTANDING COMMON TERMS

Clinical research studies are used to find out if a **study drug works** and is **safe**.

Some of these drugs may be new in development and other drugs may have been around for a while, but are now being studied in different illnesses.

STUDIES ARE DESIGNED TO **REMOVE BIAS**

Bias is the inner thoughts and ideas that affect how we think things should be, even if it is not accurate.

COMPARATIVE STUDY

For example, in comparative studies some patients will get the standard treatment plus the study drug, while others will get the standard treatment plus a placebo.

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What is administered?

STANDARD TREATMENT	STUDY DRUG	PLACEBO
		
The current treatment given to people for the disease or condition in the clinical study.	**A potential treatment not yet approved** by the FDA* for the condition in the clinical study.	**A placebo is a substance that looks like the study drug,** but contains no "active" components.

If there is no approved standard treatment for an illness, participants may receive either the **study drug** or a **placebo**.

Placebo alone is used only when no effective treatments exist, providing a control to assess the new treatment's effectiveness. Participant health is **monitored closely** throughout the study.

COMPARATIVE STUDY

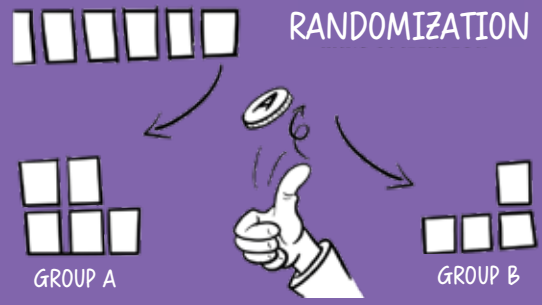
Comparative studies are often done under "double-mask" conditions to prevent bias. This means that **neither the patients, nor the doctors**, know who is getting the **study drug**, the **standard treatment**, or the **placebo**.

*Food and Drug Administration

Who Can Participate?

Not every patient is eligible for study enrollment because it is based on meeting certain eligibility requirements.

If eligible and you decide to participate, your informed consent will be needed before starting the study.



Patients are randomized to different groups in a study, meaning they are randomly assigned, like flipping a coin, into a particular group.

Turn over for more information