



LEARN ABOUT A CLINICAL TRIAL FOR **esophageal squamous cell cancer (ESCC)**

In this brochure, you will learn about advanced or metastatic ESCC that has not yet been treated and a clinical trial for this disease.

In this trial, researchers are trying to find out if different investigational drug combinations are safe and may help stop or slow down the growth of ESCC.

You can also use this brochure to talk with your doctor about this trial.

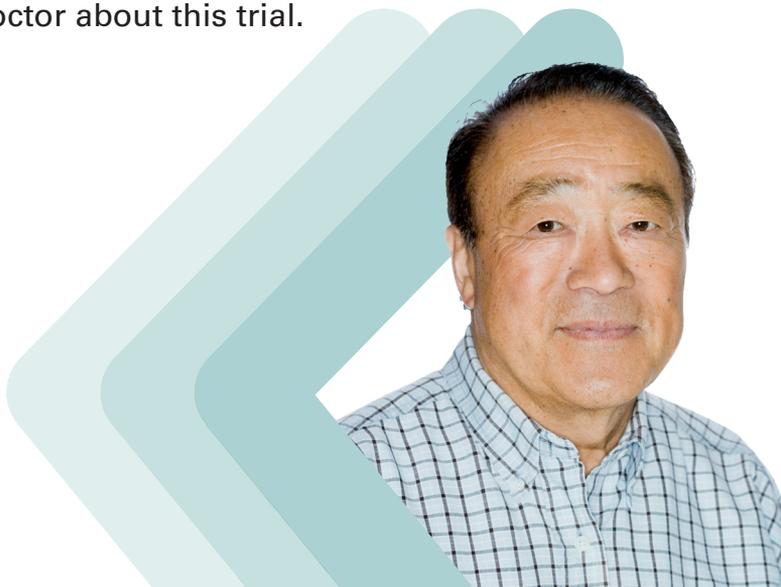


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What is esophageal cancer?

Esophageal cancer is a cancer that starts in your esophagus. Your esophagus is the tube that carries food and fluid from your mouth to your stomach. Esophageal cancer can spread to other parts of your body.

There are 2 common types of esophageal cancer:

- **Esophageal adenocarcinoma (EAC)** – often starts in the lower part of your esophagus.
- **Esophageal squamous cell cancer (ESCC)** – often starts at the top and middle of your esophagus.

Advanced cancer is when the cancer has spread and can't be cured or controlled with treatments. Advanced cancers can be locally advanced or metastatic.

- **Locally advanced** means that cancer has grown to nearby tissue or lymph nodes, but has not yet spread to other parts of your body.
- **Metastatic means the cancer has** spread from where it started to other parts of your body

What are my treatment options?

If you have ESCC, your care team will talk about your treatment options with you and those close to you.

Your options will depend on a few things:

- Your overall health
- The stage of your cancer, which tells you if the cancer has spread and how far
- Chance of the cancer coming back
- Side effects you might have from the treatment
- What chance the treatment has of slowing down or stopping the cancer
- How long the treatment might help extend your life
- How much the treatment might help improve your symptoms

Your care team may offer you 1 or more of these treatments:

- **Local therapies** – treatment directed at the site of the cancer to destroy it
- **Targeted therapy** – treatment that works on specific cells to stop them from growing
- **Immunotherapy** – medicines that help your immune system fight the cancer
- **Chemotherapy** – medicine to kill cancer cells or stop them from growing
- **Radiation therapy** – treatment that uses beams of intense energy (like X-rays) to shrink or get rid of tumors. This would only be used to treat symptoms related to tumor growth.
- **Palliative care** – also called comfort care. This is special care to help ease pain and symptoms with a focus on the person's quality of life. This does not directly treat your cancer, but it helps keep you as comfortable as possible.
- **Clinical trials**, such as this one

Talk to your doctor to find out which treatment is right for you.



What is a clinical trial?

Clinical trials are research studies that help doctors find out if study drugs (alone or with other treatments) are safe and if they can help prevent, find, or treat diseases or conditions. Clinical trials are carefully controlled research studies that are done to get a closer look at investigational treatments and procedures.

All about this clinical trial

What is the goal of this clinical trial?

The goal of this trial is to learn if different investigational drug combinations are safe and may help stop or slow down the growth of ESCC. Researchers want to compare the different investigational drug combinations to treatments people usually get.

What treatment is being studied?

Your trial doctor will give you more information about the different investigational drug combinations researchers are studying in this trial.

Who can join this trial?

There are eligibility criteria that will determine if you will qualify for participation.

For example, you must:

- Have advanced or metastatic ESCC that:
 - Can't be removed with surgery
 - Has not yet been treated

Your trial staff will do tests to see if you are able to join this trial.

You and your trial doctor will discuss:

- All the requirements to join this trial
- Possible benefits, risks, and side effects of being in this trial

If I join, how long will I be in the trial?

How long you will be in the trial depends on:

- Your health
- What type of cancer you have
- How well you tolerate the study treatments



Deciding to join a clinical trial is something only you, those close to you, and your care team can decide together. If there is anything you do not understand, ask the trial doctor.

What will happen during trial visits?

You will visit the trial site on a regular schedule so that the trial doctors can see how the trial drugs are working for you.

During your trial visits, you may get:

- Our trial treatments
- Blood and urine (pee) tests
- Physical exams
- Checks of your vital signs, such as blood pressure
- Sets of questions to answer
- Tests of your heart function, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), an echocardiogram (ECHO), or a multiple-gated acquisition scan (MUGA).
- Scans that help the doctor see the cancer inside your body. These include an MRI or CT scan of your chest, abdomen, and pelvis. Some people may also have a scan of their brain or bones.

You can ask your trial doctor any questions you have about what happens during trial visits and how often they will happen.

If you are able to join the trial, your trial doctor will need to stay in contact with you even after your trial visits are over. This is very important because this clinical trial is studying how well the study treatment works over time.

What treatments will I get?

The treatments you get will depend on when you join the trial and which group you are placed in.

The trial doctor will tell you more about the groups and investigational drug combinations.

You, your trial doctor, and the trial staff will know what drugs you are getting.

To learn more

To learn more about this trial, you can:

- Talk to your doctor
- Contact Merck by
 - Visiting www.merckoncologyclinicaltrials.com
 - Scanning this QR code:

