



## What is Cancer?

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the body. In the body there are trillions of cells with various functions. These cells grow and divide to help the body function properly. Cells die when they become old or damaged and new cells replace them.

Cancer develops when the body's normal control mechanism stops working. Old cells do not die and cells grow out of control, forming new, abnormal cells. These cells may form a mass of tissue, called a tumor.

If you have cancer, you may want to think about taking part in an AMC clinical trial. Clinical trials are a treatment option for many people with cancer.



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This brochure is for people with cancer, their family and friends.

Learn more at [AIDSCancer.org](http://AIDSCancer.org)



## About the AIDS Malignancy Clinical Trials Consortium (AMC)

The AIDS Malignancy Consortium assists medical care providers and their HIV-infected patients by focusing on cancer prevention and treatment studies.

Cancer remains a major problem in people who are HIV-infected. These include cancers that are associated with AIDS as well as those that are not.

## Many Cancer Treatments Used Today are the Result of Past Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are research studies involving people. Clinical trials follow strict rules called a protocol. These rules list what question the trial is trying to answer as well as any required medications and treatment options.

In cancer, clinical trials are designed to answer questions about new ways to:

- Treat Cancer
- Find and Diagnose Cancer
- Prevent Cancer
- Manage Symptoms of Cancer
- Manage Side Effects from Cancer Treatment



### Kaposi's Sarcoma:



Typically presents with red to purple swellings or bumps on the arms and legs, and may rapidly progress to involve the head, back, neck, trunk and mouth. In more advanced cases they can be found in

the stomach and intestines, the lymph nodes and the lungs.

### Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas and Primary Central Nervous System Lymphomas



Lymphoma is a type of blood cancer occurring when the white blood cells (part of the immune system) divide faster than normal cells or live longer than they are supposed to.

Lymphoma may develop in different parts of the body. Symptoms include abnormal swelling of lymph glands often accompanied by fever, weight loss and night sweats.

### Cervical Cancer



Cervical cancer is a cancer that arises from the female reproductive tract. A common symptom is abnormal bleeding from the vagina, but there may be no obvious symptoms. A Pap smear can identify precancerous changes in cervical cells. If detected

early and treated before it becomes a cancer, cervical cancer can be prevented. Treatment usually consists of surgery in early stages, and chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy in more advanced stages of the disease.

## How do I know if a clinical trial is right for me?

Informed consent is a process through which you learn the purpose, risks and benefits of a clinical trial before deciding whether to join.

Your health care provider will explain the trial to you and explain its:

- Purpose
- Tests and procedures
- Treatment
- Risks and benefits
- Your rights as a study participant

## CLINICAL TRIAL SITES IN AFRICA

- **Kenya:** Moi University, School of Medicine  
PHONE: +254-722496933
- **Malawi:** University of Malawi  
PHONE: +265-0-1-755954
- **South Africa:** University of the Witwatersrand  
PHONE: +27-011-276-8850
- **South Africa:** Stellenbosch University  
PHONE: +27-011-276-8850
- **Tanzania:** Bugando Medical Center  
PHONE: +255-783-0-00004
- **Uganda:** Uganda Cancer Institute  
PHONE: +256-041-540410
- **Zimbabwe:** University of Zimbabwe  
PHONE: +263-4-791631

