

How to Find Clinical Trial Results

Uou've spent weeks, months, or even years making regular visits to a testing center, keeping a log of your symptoms and treatment reactions, and getting checked and examined.

Now the trial is over, and many volunteer patients wonder: did my participation lead to more knowledge that will help other people who struggle with an illness? It's a logical question, but the answers aren't always easy to find. CISCRP is working to help you find the outcomes of clinical trials.

"Sometimes it's hard to find the results because they don't get published," says Kenneth Getz, CISCRP founder and chairman. "If a trial ends before it's completed, or even after a clinical trial ends, the results may not be available or the researchers may never publish the results."

Keep in mind that while your role in the trial or your individual treatment may have ended, the trial may still be ongoing. Even if it ended at your location, the trial may be part of a larger trial that involves multiple sites, some of which may still be in progress. After a trial ends, it takes considerable time for researchers to compile results, write a report and publish it.

Here are some effective ways to find clinical trial results:

Use CISCRP's new online tool at www.SearchClinicalTrials.org. You can enter your disease or medical condition, your zipcode and how far you are willing to travel to participate in a clinical trial, and this internet search tool will scan the web and compile listings for you to check out. Alternatively, you can go directly to these listings at any of the sites named below:

- Visit www.clinicaltrials.gov. You can search by conducting an Advanced Search and under the heading Study Results, click on Studies with Results.
- CenterWatch Clinical Trial Results Database. You can search the database by medical condition or drug name. Go to www.centerwatch.com/clinical-trials/results/db/.
- For studies involving a cancer treatment, visit the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Clinical Trials Results <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/cttypes-list>. It contains summaries of recently released results from cancer clinical trials.
- Contact the company that manufactured the product. You'll find a list of links to pharmaceutical companies at http://www.physpharm.fmd.uwo.ca/www/selectlinks.ihtml?cat_id=8.
- Check back with the doctor or clinic organizer with whom you worked. He or she may be able to give you some information or direct you to a further location.

Lipitor Clinical Trials Update

Volunteer participants who took part in Lipitor clinical trials have made an important contribution to developing effective lipid treatment guidelines.

More than 80,000 patients took part in the Lipitor Landmark clinical trial program. Lipitor has been studied in more than 400 ongoing and completed clinical trials.

The patients who have been studied in the trial program include more than 15,000 patients with diabetes; more than 16,000 patients who have been studied at the 80-mg dose; more than 19,000 patients over 65 years old; more than 33,000 patients with coronary heart disease (CHD), and more than 34,000 patients with hypertension.

CISCRP is presenting the following Lipitor study results for people who want to know more about the outcomes:

Key findings:

- In patients 40 to 75 years old with type 2 diabetes mellitus with lower LDL-C levels, Lipitor 10 mg/daily was found to be safe, well-tolerated, and significantly efficient in reducing the risk of first-time coronary heart disease. (CARDS study– Collaborative Atorvastatin Diabetes Study)
- Recent Lipitor clinical trials have also shown that statins may help patients with other non-cardiac conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and the prevention of colon cancer.
- An 18-month clinical trial showed that patients with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease taking the highest dose of Lipitor plus Pfizer's Aricept showed no significant differences in cognition or global function compared with those taking a placebo plus Aricept. (Cognition and global function are measures of the disease's progression.) The trial included 640 patients, making it the largest Alzheimer's disease study involving the statin class of cholesterol drugs.
- A human clinical trial is planned, based on encouraging results from studies in mice. A combination of Lipitor and Celebrex (a popular painkiller) was shown to potentially curb the growth of early prostate tumors in mice and prevented the transition of early cancer to a more aggressive and potentially fatal stage.

