

# Clinical Trials

## Benefits of Animals in Research

**Short Lifespans**  
Animals don't live as long as humans, so scientists can study animal models throughout their lives and over several generations. This helps researchers study disease progression.

**Helps Animals**  
Animal research improves veterinary medicine as well as human medicine, helping pets and wildlife live healthier lives.

**Same Health Issues**  
Animals experience many of the same diseases as humans.

**Similar to Humans**  
Many animals have organ systems and structures very similar to humans. Using living models is extremely valuable.

## Preclinical Trials

**Definition**  
Preclinical trials are research studies conducted on a new drug, medical device, or procedure that occur before clinical trials. They usually use animal subjects rather than humans.

**Objectives**  
The purpose of preclinical trials is to learn about the mechanism of action, effectiveness, and safety of a drug or procedure before testing it on humans.

**Locations**  
Clinical trials can take place at hospitals, universities, doctors' offices, community clinics, or in the offices of clinical trial contractors.

**Sponsors**  
Clinical trials are typically funded by companies that make medical or pharmaceutical products.

**Definition**  
Clinical trials are extensive evaluation processes that assess the safety of medical drugs, treatments, preventions, and devices before they are available for use. They are medical or health-related research studies carried out in humans or animals.

**Importance**  
Because the results of clinical trials are translated into ways to prevent, treat, or diagnose disease, we could not ensure safe and effective ways to treat disease without them.

**Scientific Method**  
Clinical trials apply the scientific method in the real world.

## Types

**Treatment Trials**  
These test new treatments, drug combinations, or approaches to surgery or radiation.

**Prevention Trials**  
These explore better ways to prevent disease.

**Diagnostic Trials**  
These determine better tests or procedures for diagnosing diseases or conditions.

**Screening Trials**  
These test for the best way to detect or treat diseases.

**Quality of Life Trials**  
These measure and look at ways to improve the comfort and quality of life for people with chronic conditions.