

Early Phase Clinical Trials

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Best in
Northern California
for cancer care



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FINDING BETTER WAYS TO TREAT, PREVENT AND DIAGNOSE CANCER THROUGH CLINICAL TRIALS

The UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals Pediatric Cancer Program offers a wide range of clinical trials for children and young adults with cancer in the San Francisco Bay Area, Northern California and western United States. Our goal is to help kids get better as quickly as possible so they can put cancer behind them and get on with their lives.

For patients with newly diagnosed cancer, most clinical trials are offered through our participation in the national Children's Oncology Group.

For patients with relapsed or refractory cancer, we strive to provide patients access to the newest treatment options in the form of early phase, including phase 1 and phase 2, clinical trials.

Trials include:

- Brain Tumors
- Neuroblastoma
- Sarcoma and Other Solid Tumors
- Leukemia, Lymphoma, Myeloproliferative Disorders
- Histiocytic Disorders

Phase 1: The goal of a pediatric phase 1 clinical trial is to learn about the side effects of the treatment in young people and to find the pediatric safe dose of a new drug or new drug combination. Initially, these trials usually treat a small group of patients at a time with a low dose of the drug. If that dose of the drug is found to be safe, then the dose is increased and additional patients are treated at the higher dose. This process is repeated until the highest safe dose is found. Many drugs have already been tested in adults before they are tested in children and adolescents. Since the side effects and safe dose of the drug are not yet known at the start of a phase 1 trial, weighing the potential risks and benefits of the trial carefully is key. These trials are typically used if standard treatment was not effective.

[MORE →](#)

REFERRALS

- **PHONE** (415) 476-3831

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Phase 2: If a new treatment is found to be safe in phase 1 clinical trials, a phase 2 clinical trial is conducted to see if it works in certain types of cancer. Patients are treated using the dose found to be the safest in phase 1 studies. Since larger numbers of patients get the treatment in phase 2 trials, less common side effects may be seen. If enough patients benefit from the treatment, and the side effects are not too severe, additional clinical trials may begin.

WHY REFER TO UCSF?

- Many of our physicians are leaders in national research groups dedicated to pediatric cancers, including brain tumors, neuroblastoma and leukemia/lymphoma.
- We are a designated Children's Oncology Group (COG) Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network (PEP-CTN) core center. PEP-CTN comprises a small group of leading institutions tasked with developing new therapies for pediatric cancers, including 21 pediatric core member sites in the United States and 21 non-core member sites in the U.S., Canada and Australia.
- We also have studies from Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNOC), New Approaches to Neuroblastoma Therapy (NANT), Therapeutic Advances in Childhood Leukemia & Lymphoma (TACL), North American Consortium for Histiocytosis (NACHO), university institutions and pharmaceutical companies.
- Many of our trials are available for patients up to 30 years of age.

OUR TEAM

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