

# Clinical Trials: The Key to Finding a Cure for IgA Nephropathy

Clinical trials can help unlock new treatments – perhaps even a cure – for IgA Nephropathy. But most patients aren’t told about clinical trials as a potential treatment option. Even when they are aware, there can be barriers or unanswered questions that can leave people hesitant to take part.

## What are Clinical Trials?

Clinical trials test whether a new medicine, combination of medications, procedure, device, or other therapy:

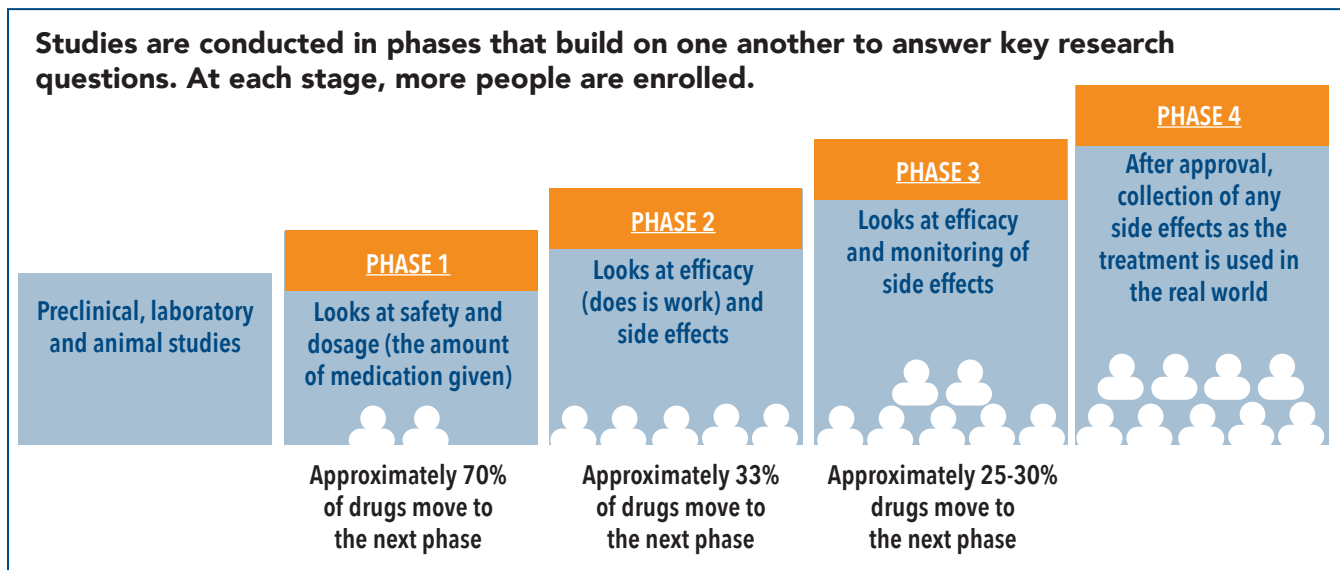
1. Is safe for people (in other words, the benefits outweigh potential risks or harm)
2. Works (as intended)
3. Is better, the same as, or worse than current treatment(s) (also called the standard of care) by measuring certain outcomes (for example, reduction of protein in the urine, improvement in GFR)

For people with IgAN and other rare diseases, clinical trials can open the door to new and better treatment options to manage symptoms and potentially slow disease progression.

This research can also give us a deeper understanding of how the disease behaves, better ways to identify it, as well as possible targets for new treatments. But the participation of many people is needed to help move a treatment from the lab to everyday use.

If you think about it, nearly all treatments available today have had to go through clinical trials. But it can be a lengthy process.

## Phases of Clinical Studies



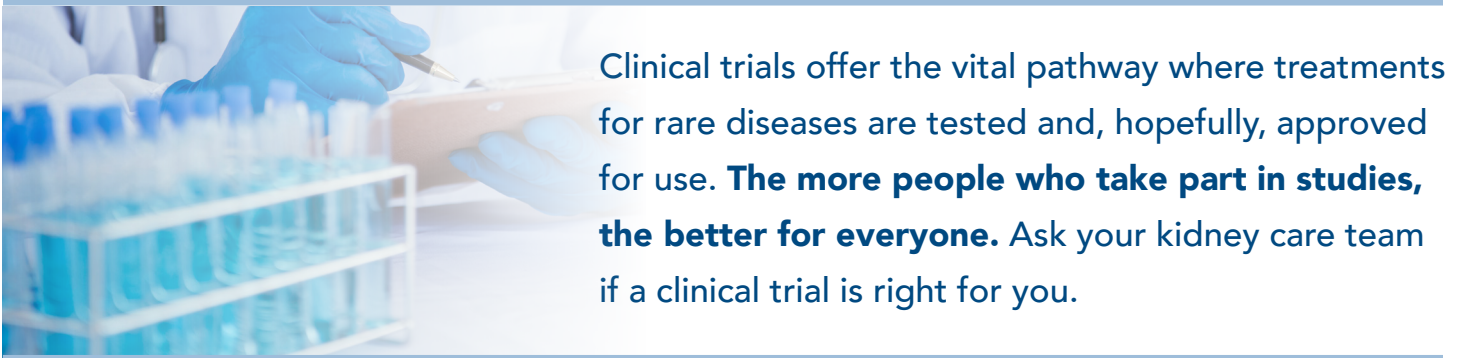
*“When you volunteer to take part in clinical research, you help doctors and researchers learn more about the disease and improve health care for people in the future” – the National Institutes of Health*

## What are the potential downsides or risks?

- Possible side effects of the new treatment
- Travel and time needed due to more frequent clinical monitoring
- Possibility of not receiving the treatment being studied

## What are the benefits of clinical trials?

- Closer clinical monitoring
- A chance to receive the newest, potentially promising treatment– for rare diseases, clinical studies often include extension studies that allow patients to access treatment after the trial is completed
- Add to our understanding of IgAN and how it behaves
- Help advance science and treatment



Clinical trials offer the vital pathway where treatments for rare diseases are tested and, hopefully, approved for use. **The more people who take part in studies, the better for everyone.** Ask your kidney care team if a clinical trial is right for you.

## Questions to Ask

- Is there a clinical trial that makes sense for me and, if so, why?
- What is the main purpose of the trial? Why is it being done?
- Is there a study site near me or would I need to travel? How am I compensated for participation in the trial?
- What do I need to do to participate in the clinical trial and for how long will I be followed?
- Will I have access to the treatment after the trial ends?
- What if I change my mind on participating or have concerning side effects?

## Find Out More

- ✓ Check out our Clinical Trials page [igan.org/clinical-trials](https://igan.org/clinical-trials)
- ✓ Join our Clinical Trials & Research Facebook group
- ✓ Learn more at [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://ClinicalTrials.gov) and search IgA Nephropathy