Cancer Patient Participation in Clinical Trials

In 2006, the percentage of patients treated in Ontario’s cancer centres enrolled in treatment-based clinical trials was 12%. This is a 36% increase since 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>As of this report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in clinical trials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What's new this year?
This report presents new 2006 data.

See table next page.
What do the results show?

0. In 2006, the participation of cancer patients in treatment-based clinical trials offered at cancer centres in Ontario was 12%. This represents an increase of 36% since 2004. Figure 1

0. Trials were conducted in various treatment areas (including surgery, systemic therapy and radiation therapy).

0. Participation in clinical trials as a proportion of new patient treatment activity varied across cancer centres in 2006 from 34% to 26%.

0. Over 5,000 cancer patients were enrolled in treatment-based clinical trials at cancer centres in 2006 — an increase of over 1000 since 2004, and almost 600 since 2005.
Why is this important to patient care?
• Many cancer patients actively seek access to the most promising therapies - clinical trials offer this opportunity to some.³
• The participation of cancer patients in clinical trials is essential to both advancing the science of cancer medicine and improving outcomes for patients with cancer.⁴

How does Ontario compare?
• The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer's standards for designated cancer programs require a minimum clinical trial accrual rate ranging from 4% of analytic cases (i.e. patients diagnosed and receiving most of their treatment at the facility) to 6% depending on the type of facility (i.e. community vs. academic).⁵
• Ontario's participation rate compares favourably with these standards.

What is being done?
• Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) (formerly the Ontario Cancer Research Network) is providing funds to help Ontario hospitals and cancer treatment centres expand their clinical trials programs.
• The OICR's target, set in 2002, to double the number of patients enrolled in cancer clinical trials⁶ was reached this year. Since 2002, there has been 105% increase in the number of patients enrolled in treatment-based clinical trials at Ontario's cancer centres.
• To make information on existing clinical trials in Canada more accessible, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) recently began requiring all of its funded clinical trials to register and post trial information on a public Web site.⁷
• Just as cancer treatment is specific to the stage of cancer, so are treatment-based clinical trials specific to the stage of cancer.
• Improvements in cancer staging will allow for better and timelier patient recruitment for clinical trials.

Technical Information
Definition
• Percentage of cancer patients treated in Ontario’s cancer centres enrolled in treatment-based clinical trials, 2004-2006.

Data Sources
• Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Clinical Trials Infrastructure Program
• Cancer Care Ontario, Activity Level Reporting

Data Quality

Completeness
• Results currently include trials for cancer treatment (surgery, systemic therapy and radiation therapy). Trials for cancer prevention, screening or diagnosis are not captured.

Accuracy
• Results do not distinguish between types of clinical trials.
• Results do not distinguish between different types or stages of cancer.

Notes
2. Murthy VH, Krumholz HM, Gross CP. Participation in Cancer Clinical Trials: Race-, Sex-, and Age-Based Disparities. JAMA 2004;291:2720-6
3. For more information on clinical trials see http://www.cancer.ca/ccs/internet/standard/0,3182,3543_158725323__langId-en,00.html
6. For more information, see http://www.oicr.on.ca/aboutOicr_Home.htm