

## The Stablemates Clinical Trial

A clinical trial is a research study that is conducted in a medical setting such as a clinic or hospital. It usually involves the testing of a new medication, treatment, or device.

Patients are never placed in a clinical trial without their knowledge and permission. All qualified patients involved in clinical trials consent to participate before treatment begins.

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### Lung cancer

You have been diagnosed with an early stage lung cancer, meaning the cancerous tumor appears limited to one of the lobes of your lungs. There are three separate lobes on the right and two lobes on the left side of your chest. The standard treatment for early stage lung cancer is lobectomy or removal of an entire tumor-containing lobe. Your doctor can tell you where your lung cancer is positioned and how best to treat it.

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### What is the Stablemates trial?

The Stablemates trial is comparing two very effective therapies, BOTH of which have a history of being successfully used in the treatment of early stage lung cancer.

- Sublobar resection (removing less than one lobe) is the most common treatment for patients with early stage lung cancer burdened by coexisting serious medical problems. Sublobar resection is a more limited surgery than standard lobectomy, allowing the patient to retain more of their normal lung tissue. Although still a significant surgery requiring a recovery period, sublobar resection is proven to be more tolerable than lobectomy particularly for those with coexisting medical problems.
- Stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR, also known as SBRT), is a recently developed

radiation therapy technique that is completed in a few painless, outpatient treatments of less than 30 minutes. Recent clinical trials have shown promising results comparable to surgery, and it is now the standard of care given to inoperable patients (those unable to tolerate any form of surgery). But being so new, its performance is still less understood compared to surgical options.

Question: if SABR is so good for those unfit for surgery, could it be used in a broader group including some operable patients? Determining which patients are best suited for either surgery or SABR is one of the primary goals of the Stablemates trial.

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### How do I participate?

Stablemates is a little different than most other clinical trials. Usually, you agree first to participate and then wait for a blind randomization to determine the particular arm of a study you're assigned.

**But we realize that cancer patients prefer to have choices in determining their treatment.**

So you get to choose. In Stablemates, patients are pre-randomized by a computer and then informed of their assignment *before* they choose to participate. If you don't like your assignment you are free to decline study participation and choose another therapy in consultation with your doctor.

With this approach, patients can weigh the pros and cons, and make their own decisions.

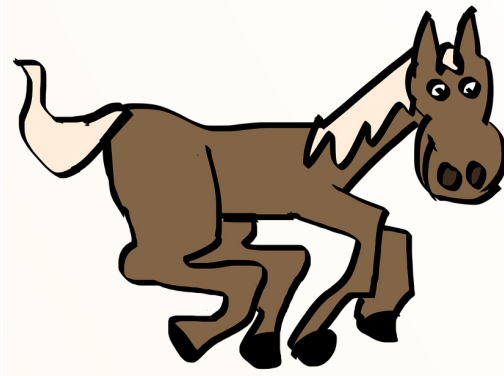


You're in the driver's seat.

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## What else should I know?

- The Stablemates trial is comparing two different types of care that are normally provided for your disease. There are no placebo or untested treatments being offered.
- The form of SAbR used in the Stablemates trial employs three treatments each separated by a few days.
- The study was designed to incorporate standard treatments and follow-up testing approved by major payers including Medicare. That way, any out-of-pocket cost for participating in the study should be minimized.
- We recommend that you discuss participating in Stablemates with your family and other potential caregivers before agreeing to be in the study. Your doctor is also there to help answer questions so that you can make the best decision for YOU.
- The consent forms are long as they include more detailed information about the study and potential side effects. Ask your doctor or research nurse for assistance if you have questions while filling out these forms.
- You can change your mind about participating in the study at any time, including before or after you've received your treatment. Leaving the study will not affect the quality of your health care.
- A total of 272 people will be participating in the Stablemates clinical trial throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia.



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## Why is it called "Stablemates"?

The two therapies – sublobar resection and SAbR – might be compared to two racehorses, both competing for the same prize (to cure patients with cancer) but cooperatively working together as long-time neighbors living in the same stable.

Sublobar resection and SAbR have both demonstrated high cure rates in people with early stage, non-small cell lung cancer. However, patients suffering from lung cancer often have reduced cardiopulmonary function and other health challenges, which may affect which therapy is best for them. For this reason, cancer researchers are interested in performing a fair and unbiased comparison between the two treatments specifically for high-risk patients. The information gained from this trial will greatly help patients and physicians make better decisions to fight lung cancer.

For more information, please visit the Stablemates trial web site at [www.joltca.org](http://www.joltca.org).

**Research  
brings hope  
for more cures  
in lung  
cancer**