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Clinical trials: case studies

Patients share their individual stories of experiencing clinical trials at The Royal Marsden.

REASURE trial

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Diagnosed with prostate cancer in August 2014 at his local hospital, Ted, 74, joined a clinical trial at The Royal Marsden in August 2015. Ted said:

?Although my trial involved more scans than usual treatment, I wasn?t worried one bit. I actually enjoyed coming into the hospital because everybody was lovely.

My advice to anyone in the same situation who is offered a clinical trial is to go for it. You?re in the hands of the experts at The Royal Marsden and by helping them you can help future patients too.?

Michael, 74, was diagnosed with prostate cancer 11 years ago and was treated with radiotherapy. He is now on the REASURE trial. Michael said:

?I feel profoundly indebted to the hospital for keeping me in good health, and when Dr Parker asked if I would take part in this trial, I felt it was my opportunity to give something back.

The scanning machines are state-of-the-art ? no wonder people come from so far for treatment.?

The REASURE trial looks at a new way to find out how well radium 223 is working for men with prostate cancer that has spread to the bones

"Staff at The Royal Marsden are kind, concerned, competent and always have time for a brief

chat"

Image not found

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Ted, 74, said "the trial was fantastic and the nurses and staff were very kind. I can't praise them enough"

Endeavour trial

"What's offered at this hospital is far more than just clinical treatment ? it's experience and knowledge with staff who are dedicated to research"

Barry, 60

Barry, 60, was diagnosed with myeloma in 2005 and was transferred to The Royal Marsden for a stem cell transplant. He is now on his third clinical trial, the Endeavour trial, which requires him to visit the hospital two days a week. Barry said:

"The Royal Marsden is at the forefront of cancer research so you have more options and choices as a patient. What's offered at this hospital is far more than just clinical treatment ? it's experience and knowledge with staff who are dedicated to research.

My experience of trials has been excellent. One of the reasons I have been treated so well is partly because trials exist. My advice to other patients considering a trial is to ask plenty of questions. You'll be monitored very closely which gives you reassurance and confidence."

"My advice to other patients considering a trial is to ask plenty of questions."

Phil, 57, was diagnosed with bladder cancer in January 2012 at his local hospital and standard treatment didn't work. He was referred to The Royal Marsden in January 2014 and has been on a phase I drug trial for the last two years. He receives treatment on the Drug Development Unit [6] and recently celebrated his 100th visit. Phil said:

"The Royal Marsden has given me hope for the future. I recently celebrated my 36-year wedding anniversary and do not believe I would be here if I was not on a drug trial.

Cancer is a time thief and the Drug Development Unit has given me time to have fun conversations with my grandson, see one of my granddaughters win five swimming gold medals and my eldest granddaughter become head girl. I would not be here without The Royal Marsden as I was told my bladder cancer was untreatable.?

"The Royal Marsden has given me hope for the future"

?Phil, 57

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