

Be Aware Foundation RESEARCH GROUP

About the Be Aware Foundation

The Be Aware Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving women's lives by ensuring that breast cancer is diagnosed at its earliest stage. Our goal is to motivate and inspire women to consistently follow our early detection guidelines. The survival rate is greater than 95%, when breast cancer is detected early. Be Aware offers educational programs throughout Southern California, where a breast cancer survivor and an RN team up to show how to manage breast health.

About The Be Aware Foundation's Clinical Research Program

The Be Aware Foundation funds clinical research through a partnership with Breastlink, fully integrated centers that are dedicated to providing the full continuum of care for individuals with breast cancer.

The need for improved detection and treatment of breast cancer is ongoing. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimated that there would be more than 180,000 new cases of breast cancer in the United States in 2007. Breastlink's vision of providing Optimal Care for patients with breast cancer includes a commitment to finding new and better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat breast cancer. One way we do this is by providing patients access to clinical trials to evaluate new research treatments for their disease before they are widely available. Many of the medical and surgical treatments used today in fighting cancer are the result of what has been learned through clinical research trials. Current clinical trials will help determine many of the treatments that will be used in the future.

Clinical research is research done with people as a way for doctors and researchers to find new safe and effective treatments for diseases; find better ways to prevent, screen for, or diagnose diseases; or find ways to improve quality of life for people with disease.

Breastlink participates in all phases of drug and device trials in addition to Quality of Life and surgical trials. Our research team carefully selects trials for inclusion in our portfolio and works to maintain a complete portfolio with treatment trials for patients newly diagnosed with invasive cancer or ductal carcinoma in situ as well as trials for patients with metastatic breast cancer. The composition of our portfolio is determined by the needs of real people, our patients, not ivory tower research ideas and interests.

Our organization has a dedicated research staff with a combined experience of over 50 years in various aspects of the conduct and management of clinical trials. Research staff members carefully evaluate each patient for inclusion in a clinical trial. A study coordinator meets with each potential participant to explain why a trial is being done and what would be required should they choose to participate. The study coordinator will follow each study participant and, together with the physician and clinical staff, ensure that the research protocol is precisely followed. Care and safety of each research participant is our team's priority.