

Clinical Trials for Prostate Cancer Patients in the VA Medical System

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In 2016, VA Research partnered with the Prostate Cancer Foundation to establish the Precision Oncology Program for Cancer of the Prostate (POPCaP). The program emphasizes the use of genetic information to tailor individualized treatments for Veterans with advanced prostate cancer. Components of POPCaP include access to genetic testing and counseling, prostate cancer clinical trials, and FDA-approved drugs targeted to specific cancer mutations.

In support of the POPCaP program, VA launched the Prostate Cancer Analysis for Therapy Choice (PATCH) initiative, which is the clinical trial arm of POPCaP. The PATCH program is VA-funded and consists of a national network of prostate cancer clinical trials. The objective of this effort is to increase the number of VHA facilities engaged in prostate cancer clinical trials, increase Veteran participation in precision medicine studies, and grow the number of physicians providing care for prostate cancer patients and conducting prostate cancer research.

The PATCH team works closely with industry partners and principal investigators to open trials quickly and efficiently within the POPCaP network and VA medical system to serve the continuously changing prostate oncology needs of our Veterans. This has resulted in improved administration processes and reduced study start up times.

Since its inception, the number of PATCH clinical trials has increased over 130% (figure 1), increasing the amount of clinical trial participation by over 300% (figure 2).

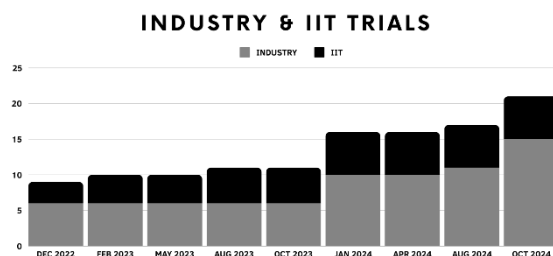


Figure 1: PATCH clinical trials over time

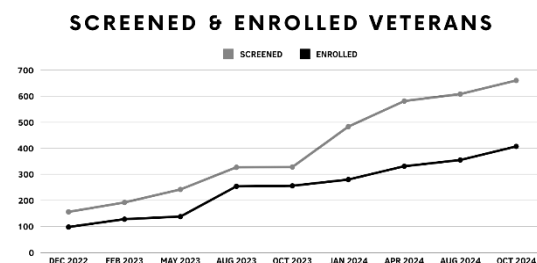


Figure 2: Screened & enrolled Veterans over time

The PATCH initiative has been integral to the success of the VA clinical trial system, ensuring easy access for industry partners and clinical trial support for all investigators.

Funding Acknowledgement: PATCH is fully funded by the VA Office of Research and Development
COI Disclosure: The authors have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.