THE RESEARCH. HOW DOES IT WORK?

In **2020**, you were bombarded with scientific terms.
Medical research is a necessary stage in understanding and beating a disease such as MS, but how does it work?

HERE ARE ITS VARIOUS STAGES:

STAGE 1 — 2-3 YEARS

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
The search by laboratories for molecules with potential

STAGE 2 — 2-3 YEARS

PRECLINICAL RESEARCH
Molecules are tested for effectiveness and safety on animals and/or animal or human cells.

STAGE 3

TESTING PHASE 1 — +1 YEAR

Performed on several dozen volunteers with and without MS
PURPOSE:
- Is this drug tolerated by human beings?
- How is it absorbed into the human body?
- What are the side effects?

TESTING PHASE 2 — 1-3 YEARS

Performed on several dozen or hundred MS patients
PURPOSE:
- How effective is the drug and how well is it tolerated? Effectiveness is assessed using imagery or a biomarker.
- What is the optimal dose for this drug?

TESTING PHASE 3 — 2-3 YEARS

Performed on several thousand MS patients
PURPOSE:
- Are the results of the previous tests confirmed?
- How does the drug act compared with other existing drugs or a placebo?

If the Phase 3 results are satisfactory, an application for authorisation is made to the European Medicines Agency.
Further to this authorisation, an application for reimbursement is made to the relevant Belgian authority, INAMI/RIZIV. This part of the process takes one to two years.

TESTING PHASE 4

Performed on a large number of patients when the drug is already on the market.
PURPOSE:
- How can we improve tolerance and compliance for this drug?
- Does the use of the drug confirm the previous effectiveness and safety testing?

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