

# CLINICAL TRIALS

VERSUS

# OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

COMPARING THE 2 TYPES OF RESEARCH



## Clinical trials

Determine new ways to treat or prevent disease

Involve an intervention with a drug or treatment to discover if it is safe and effective

Participants are randomly assigned into groups and either receive an investigational treatment or are in the control group which will receive standard of care or placebo

Neither the study team nor the participants know in which group they will be

Clinical evaluations such as memory tests, MRI, PET scan, physical exams, lumbar punctures and blood draws may be performed

Safety and efficacy is closely monitored by research team



## Observational studies

Determine new ways to detect and track disease

No treatments or interventions are involved

Clinical evaluations such as memory tests, MRI, PET scan, physical exams, lumbar punctures and blood draws may be performed

Evaluations may help identify new tests, procedures, biomarkers that improve how we diagnose or monitor people living with disease

Study may help inform development of a clinical trial

May involve one or more visits



MASSACHUSETTS  
Alzheimer's Disease  
Research Center