



Is a Clinical Trial Right for Me

Each trial is unique with its own set of benefits and risks – just as with any medical test, drug, or procedure. It is important for you to gather data to help inform your decision about participating or not.

Questions to ask your doctor or the trial researchers to help you decide about participating include the following:



Q: Why is this study being done? What do the researchers hope to learn?

Q: Will the researchers work with my current cancer physician and care team? Who will be in charge of my care?

Q: What are my other options (standard treatments, other studies)? What are their pros and cons?

Q: How much experience do you have with this investigational drug treatment? What is your experience with clinical trials?

Q: What kinds of treatments and tests are part of this study? How often are they done?

Q: Does the trial involve a placebo or a treatment that is already on the market?

Q: How will the treatment be given to me?

Q: What side effects can I expect? Are there other risks? How do they compare to side effects from standard treatments and from the disease itself?

Q: Will I have to be in the hospital for any part of the trial? If I do, how often, how long, and who pays?

Q: Will I still see my regular cancer doctor? Who will be in charge of my care during the trial?

Q: Will I have to pay for anything? Will any of the treatment be free? Will my insurance cover the treatment?

Q: How long will I be in the study? How long will the study last?

Q: Are there reasons I could be removed from the study?

Q: Is long-term follow-up care part of the study? What does that include/involve?

Q: If the treatment is working for me, can I keep getting it after the study ends?

Q: Can I talk to other patients already taking part in the trial?

Q: How long do I have to make this decision?



Once you have spoken to your doctor about the trial, it can help to sit down and make a list of the pros and cons for you personally.

HOW DO I DECIDE ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN A CLINICAL TRIAL?

PROS	CONS

Factors to Consider

My Personal Treatment Goals

- Does this trial match the goals I have for my overall cancer care treatment (e.g., I want to be home and comfortable, I want to be around for a family event or special occasion, I want to fight and do all in my power to beat this)?

Travel Time

- How long will I be in this trial?
- How far is the site and where do I need to go for the trial treatment? How long will it take to travel to the trial treatment center?

Money

- What costs are involved? Who pays?
- Will I be reimbursed or get some sort of stipend?
Will you charge my insurance company for any of the procedures?

Remember your health insurance plan may not cover research procedures, so contact your health insurance provider and find out what is allowed.

Health

- How could this affect my overall health and quality of life?

Side Effects

- Can I handle them?
- Are they better or worse than the cancer or the treatments I'm getting now?

My Care

- Will I still see my doctor? Will I be getting more/better clinical attention.