

# Questions for Your Doctor About Clinical Trials



This list of questions is intended to help you begin a conversation with your physician about identifying clinical trials for which you may be a candidate. Participation in a clinical trial is an individual choice and may not be right for everyone, so a conversation with your physician to discuss your unique situation should occur prior to making a decision.

- What is a clinical trial?
- What sort of testing does an investigational drug undergo before it can be used in human clinical trials?
- How do I know if I am a possible candidate for a clinical trial?
- Are clinical trials only for people who have failed all other options?
- How do I find out about clinical trials?
- If I am a candidate to receive an approved standard therapy, why should I participate in a clinical trial?
- Are clinical trials safe?
- What are some of the risks and benefits of participating in a clinical trial?
- What are the chances of receiving a control therapy, such as the standard of care or a placebo (sugar pill), instead of the investigational drug?
- Will I be told if I am not receiving the investigational drug?
- What is an open-label trial?
- What is a randomized, controlled, double-blind trial?

Once you and your physician have identified a clinical trial for which you may be an appropriate candidate, here are some questions that may help you learn additional information.

- What is the goal of this trial?
- Who is sponsoring the trial?
- What is known about the investigational drug being studied?
  - Has this drug worked in previous trials?
  - Is this the same as chemotherapy?
- How will I be given the drug?
  - How often will I receive treatment and for how long?
- Are there tests that are needed to determine if I am eligible for this trial?
  - What types of tests, scans, or other procedures are required during the trial, and how frequently will they need to be performed?
- What side effects might I experience if given the investigational drug?
  - Are the side effects reversible, and can they be managed?
  - Are the side effects from the investigational drug worse than those I might experience with standard treatment?
  - How severe could these side effects be?
  - Will I lose my hair?
  - Will I be able to continue working or go about my daily routine?
- What happens if my disease gets worse during the trial?
  - If I experience any problems while in the trial, whom should I contact?
- Is it possible that I will receive the standard therapy instead of the investigational drug?
  - If I receive the standard therapy, will it be possible to receive the investigational drug later during the trial?
- If I decide I don't want to continue receiving therapy, can I drop out at any time?
  - If I drop out, will I receive other treatments for my cancer?
- What happens once treatment is completed?
  - What type of follow-up will I receive in the days/months/years after the trial ends?
- Are there possible benefits for me and/or my family if I agree to participate in the trial?
- Will participation in this trial prevent me from receiving treatment with other therapies, either now or in the future?
- Who pays for my treatment while I am participating in the clinical trial?
  - If the drug sponsor of the trial pays for the investigational drug, are there any other costs for which I or my family may be responsible, such as tests, supportive care, etc?
  - Do I need approval from my insurance company prior to entering into the trial?
- When will this trial be completed?
- How can I find out about the results of the trial once it has been completed?



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