

What questions should I ask my doctor?

It's normal to have a lot of questions. Here are some you may want to ask a member of your healthcare team before you decide to take part in a trial. As you ask your questions, place a .

About this trial:

- Why is this trial being done?
- How long will I be in the trial?
- What kinds of tests and treatments will I have?
- What are the possible side effects or risks of the treatment?
- What are the possible benefits?
- How will we know if the treatment is working?
- What will happen if the treatment doesn't work?
- Will my care team change when I am on the trial?
- What information will be shared with me?
- How will my information be kept private?
- What are my rights?

Costs

- Will I have to pay for any of the treatments or tests?
- What costs will my health insurance cover?

Daily life

- How could the trial affect my daily life?
- How often will I have to come to the hospital or clinic?

Comparing choices

- What are my other treatment choices?
- How does the treatment I would get in this trial compare with the other treatment choices?

If you have questions, please contact our
Resource and Education Center
215-214-1618
recstaff@fcc.edu

National Cancer Institute's
Cancer Information Service
800-4-CANCER
(800-422-6237)

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**BE THE
BREAK-
THROUGH**

Understanding Clinical Trials



TEMPLE HEALTH



What is a clinical trial?

When you find out you have cancer, your doctor talks to you about your treatment choices. A clinical trial may be one of those choices. Clinical trials are research studies done with people. The standard treatments we use today are the result of yesterday's clinical trials.

Clinical trials find new or better ways to:

- Prevent cancer
- Find cancer
- Treat cancer
- Control symptoms of cancer or side effects of treatment

They help us answer big questions like:

- What causes cancer?
- What new drugs and treatments work?
- Which ones do not work?

What do I need to know about taking part?

Before you decide to take part in a study, you should know more about it.

Protocol

Each study has a detailed plan called a protocol. It explains what will be done during the trial and who can take part. It also has information that helps the doctor decide if the treatment is right for you.

Informed consent

Each study also has a process called informed consent. The informed consent process is a key part of making sure patients are safe in research studies. During this process, you learn all the facts about the trial before you decide to take part. Your doctor will explain these facts in words you understand.

You will learn about:

- The treatment and tests
- Possible benefits and risks
- Any other costs that may not be paid for
- How your medical records will be kept private
- Your right to leave the study at any time
- All other treatment options

What are the benefits and risks?

Like all treatment options, clinical trials have possible benefits and risks.

Benefits

- You may get a new treatment that is not yet open to people outside of the study.
- The research team will watch and support you closely.
- If the treatment is better than the standard treatment, you may be among the first to benefit.
- The trial may help scientists learn more about cancer and help people in the future.

Risks

- The treatment may not be better than, or even as good as, the standard treatment.
- There may be side effects that the doctors do not expect.
- You may need more tests. Some of the tests could be uncomfortable or take a lot of time.
- The treatment may work in some patients, but may not work for you.