Patient Insights on Factors Impacting Clinical Trial Participation during the COVID-19 Pandemic

August 2020
Introduction.

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted clinical trial operations with unprecedented speed and severity. In order to gauge how the public is responding to changes in the industry, SubjectWell, with support from CISCRP, set out to assess how patients’ feelings regarding clinical trials are being affected by uncertainty around the impact of COVID-19. Between June 1 and 12, 2020, SubjectWell polled more than 550 patients from across the United States. In this report, we are specifically taking a look at race, gender, and geographic region to better understand how these factors impact trial participation.
How concerned are you about being exposed to COVID-19 if you were to enroll in (join) a clinical trial for a condition other than COVID-19?

Compared to females (40%), males were less likely to report feeling very concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 if they were to enroll in a clinical trial for a condition other than COVID-19 (31%).

Concern about COVID-19 Exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Females (n=342)</th>
<th>Males (n=210)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very concerned</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you were to participate in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19, what information would be the most important for you to know to help soothe any concerns you may have about exposure to COVID-19?

When asked what information would be important to know to soothe concerns about exposure to COVID-19 if they were to participate in a clinical trial for a condition other than COVID-19, females were more likely to report the ability to communicate with the study doctor remotely as very important (67%) compared to males (54%). Males were more likely to report having a nurse come to their home for study visits as not important (25%) compared to females (14%).
If you were to participate in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19, what information would be the most important for you to know to help soothe any concerns you may have about exposure to COVID-19?

Furthermore, females were more likely to report the ability to have study medicine delivered directly to their home (69%) and knowing their health and safety would be protected if visiting the study clinic in person (77%) as very important compared to males (54% and 67%, respectively).
How likely are you to consider participation in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19?

Of Black or African American respondents, 40% were more likely to report being not at all likely (26%) or not very likely (14%) to consider participating in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19 compared to 28% of white respondents (13% not at all likely, 15% not very likely).
How concerned are you about being exposed to COVID-19 if you were to enroll in (join) a clinical trial for a condition other than COVID-19?

Black or African American respondents were more likely to report feeling very concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 if they were to enroll in a clinical trial for a condition other than COVID-19 (56%) compared to white respondents (31%).

![Concern about COVID-19 Exposure](chart)

- **White (n=320)**
  - Not at all concerned: 32%
  - Not very concerned: 19%
  - Somewhat concerned: 31%
  - Very concerned: 18%

- **Black or African American (n=124)**
  - Not at all concerned: 18%
  - Not very concerned: 14%
  - Somewhat concerned: 13%
  - Very concerned: 56%
If you were to participate in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19, what information would be the most important for you to know to help soothe any concerns you may have about exposure to COVID-19?

Black or African American respondents were more likely to report the availability of concierge services (66%) and the number of in-person visits (67%) as very important compared to white respondents (50% and 46%, respectively).

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Furthermore, Black or African American respondents were more likely to report having the ability to collect and send lab samples from the privacy of their home (61%) and knowing their health and safety would be protected while at home (87%) as very important compared to white respondents (45% and 68%, respectively).
In a ranking of “not important,” “somewhat important,” and “very important,” can you tell me what’s important to you in participating in a clinical trial?

Respondents from the Northeast (45%) and South (38%) were more likely to say receiving money is very important compared to Midwestern respondents (25%). Respondents from the Northeast and West were more likely to report obtaining education about improving health (83% each) as very important compared to Midwestern respondents (66%). Northeastern respondents were more likely to say their doctor recommending the study is very important (79%) compared to Western respondents (63%). Northeastern respondents were more likely to report that information they read/saw or heard about a clinical trial influencing them is very important (51%) compared to Midwestern respondents (31%).
In a ranking of “not important,” “somewhat important,” and “very important,” can you tell me what’s important to you in participating in a clinical trial?

Respondents from the Northeast were more likely to say obtaining better treatment for their condition is not important (7%) compared to Midwestern respondents (0%). Western respondents were more likely to say obtaining free medication and/or treatment is not important (21%) compared to respondents from the South (7%) and Midwest (9%).
If you were to participate in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19, what information would be the most important for you to know to help soothe any concerns you may have about exposure to COVID-19?

When asked what information would be important to know to soothe concerns about exposure to COVID-19 if they were to participate in a clinical trial for a condition other than COVID-19, respondents from the Northeast were more likely to report the availability of concierge services as very important (65%) compared to Western respondents (49%). Northeastern respondents were also more likely to say the availability of at-home lab collection is very important (58%) compared to respondents from the West (43%).

### Availability of Concierge Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Availability of At-Home Lab Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
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<td>32%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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If you were to participate in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19, what information would be the most important for you to know to help soothe any concerns you may have about exposure to COVID-19?

Furthermore, Southern respondents were more likely to report that home delivery of study medications is very important (67%) compared to Midwestern respondents (54%). Respondents across all regions – South (86%), Midwest (86%), Northeast (83%), and West (80%) – agreed that knowing what to do if they get COVID-19 while enrolled in a clinical trial is very important.
If you were to participate in a clinical trial for a medical condition other than COVID-19, what information would be the most important for you to know to help soothe any concerns you may have about exposure to COVID-19?

Finally, Northeastern respondents were more likely to report availability of mobile applications as very important (62%) compared to Southern respondents (46%). On the other hand, Southern respondents were more likely to report the availability of mobile applications as not important (14%) compared to respondents from the West and Midwest (6% each).
Which research community do you think an effective COVID-19 treatment or vaccine is most likely to come from?

Western respondents were more likely to report thinking an effective COVID-19 treatment or vaccine is most likely to come from academic researchers (29%) compared to respondents from the South and Midwest (18% and 17%, respectively). Southern and Midwestern respondents were more likely to report thinking an effective COVID-19 treatment or vaccine is most likely to come from independent scientists (34% and 37%, respectively) compared to respondents from the West (23%).
About CISCRP.

The Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation (CISCRP) is an internationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and informing the public and patients about clinical research. CISCRP works to raise awareness, enhance experiences, and strengthen communication and relationships among participants, research professionals, and the public through various services and events.

For more information about CISCRP, contact (877) 633-4376, email info@ciscrp.org, or visit ciscrp.org.

About SubjectWell.

SubjectWell, the risk-free clinical trials marketplace for patient recruitment, is raising awareness of clinical research in the general population and providing patients more choice and easy access to innovative treatment options.

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