

Clinical Trials

The key question to ask is, “What proof is there that the treatment being offered will cure, extend actual survival, or increase the quality of life?” Ask to see scientific papers and reports on the treatment. If necessary, seek professional help in interpreting this information.

1. What is the purpose of this clinical trial?
2. Why is this specific approach being studied?
3. Why does the research team think the treatment, drug, or medical device will work?
4. Is this a treatment option for me?
5. Why are you recommending this clinical trial for me?
6. What other treatment options are available to me, including other clinical trials?
7. Who or what organization is sponsoring the clinical trial?
8. Who has reviewed and approved this clinical trial?
9. Does this clinical trial include the use of a placebo (also called a “sugar pill”)?

Questions about your participation in a specific clinical trial

10. Where is the clinical trial taking place (sometimes called the study site)?
11. How often will I have to go to the study site?
12. How long will the clinical trial last?
13. What are my responsibilities during the clinical trial?
14. What kinds of treatments, tests, scans, and other procedures will I have during the clinical trial?
15. How often?
16. Will they hurt?
17. If so, for how long?
18. What is a biospecimen (tissue sample), and what types are needed for this trial?
19. What will be done with the tissue samples?
20. Do I need to donate these in order to participate in the study?
21. What tests will be done on the tissue sample?
22. What is a biomarker?
23. Will these be tested for in the clinical trial?
24. How will the tests and procedures needed in this study compare with tests and procedures I would need to have outside of this study?
25. Will I be able to take my regular medications during the clinical trial?
26. What medications, procedures, or treatments must I avoid while in the clinical trial?
27. Will I have to be in the hospital during the clinical trial?
28. Who will know that I am participating in a clinical trial?
29. Can I talk to other people in this clinical trial?
30. Will I be able to find out the results of the clinical trial?
31. When?
32. Will the study researchers work with my doctor while I am in the clinical trial?
33. Who will be coordinating my overall health care?
34. Who do I contact if I experience side effects or other problems during the clinical trial?
35. Who will provide my medical care after the clinical trial ends?

Questions about risks and benefits of a specific clinical trial

36. What are the possible advantages of participating in this clinical trial?
37. What are the possible risks of participating in this clinical trial?

38. How do the possible risks and benefits of this clinical trial compare with the standard treatments for me?
39. How do they compare with other clinical trials open to me?
40. What are the possible short-term side effects of both the approved treatments and those being tested in this clinical trial?
41. How can they be managed?
42. What are the long-term side effects and how can they be managed?
43. How will this treatment affect my daily life?
44. Will I be able to work, exercise, and perform my usual activities?
45. What happens if my health gets worse during the clinical trial?

Questions related to the cost of a clinical trial

46. What costs can I expect if I choose to participate in this clinical trial?
47. What are the charges likely to be?
48. How do these costs compare to the costs of my other treatment options?
49. Is my insurance likely to cover my expenses from this clinical trial?
50. What is “informed consent”?

Other Treatments

51. Is there an alternative therapy that has proven effective in treating my type of cancer?
52. What would be the “down-side” of trying an alternative therapy before starting any Clinical Trials?
53. Where can I find more information about alternative therapies?

Any other questions you may have.

You are the most important member of your healthcare team. Your situation is unique, and your treatment should be developed just for you. You can participate in your care by doing the following:

Be involved in decisions that affect you.

Learn about your cancer and all available treatment options.

Go to all your doctor, clinic and hospital appointments.

Ask your team how to contact them between appointments if you have any questions that need answers quickly.

Talk to your team about your worries or concerns.



[Cancer Ireland](http://www.cancerireland.ie)