

# Clinical Trials

## Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Learning that you have cancer is a difficult experience. After a cancer diagnosis, you may feel anxious, afraid or overwhelmed. So many thoughts are running through your mind that it might be easy to forget important questions and concerns. Before choosing a clinical trial as an option for cancer treatment, make sure you understand your treatment options, expected benefits, side effects and risks.

Here are some questions to ask about clinical trials. These questions can help you make important decisions about your care.

Also, you may want to bring a family member or friend with you to your doctor appointment. That person can help you ask questions and write down the information that the doctor gives you.

### 1. Am I eligible to participate in a clinical trial? Why or why not?

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If you are eligible to participate in a clinical trial you will want to know:

### 2. Why should I participate in this clinical trial?

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### 3. What other options are available for treatment?

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### 4. What kinds of tests, procedures and/or medications will I receive if I participate in this clinical trial?

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6. What are the potential risks and side effects?

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7. How can I expect to feel during the clinical trial and in the weeks following?

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8. Are there additional costs to participate in this clinical trial?

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9. Do I have time to think about my options or get a second opinion?

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## Where can I get more information?

The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about clinical trials, cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.

**Phone:** 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

**Website:** [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)



**Carbone Cancer Center**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



**Cancer Health  
Disparities Initiative**

[ruralcancernetwork.org](http://ruralcancernetwork.org)

**For more local information, please contact:**

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