

Is a Breast Cancer Clinical Trial Right for Me?

A Patient-Provider Discussion Guide

The Right Questions Lead to the Right Decision

Clinical trials give you access to a treatment that is not available anywhere else and allows you to help other patients with breast cancer by helping to advance research. Participants also receive more frequent and closer monitoring of symptoms and side effects from the healthcare providers on the research team. Before you decide to enroll in a clinical trial, ask your doctor and the research team your questions so you can make the best decision for YOU.

Questions about eligibility...

- Is the clinical trial studying breast cancer?
- Is this trial for patients with the subtype of breast cancer that I have, for example, invasive HER2-positive carcinoma?
- Who can be part of the study?
- Are there any factors that would make this unsafe for me?
- Could I join a trial at any point during the course of my cancer care?
- Before I decide to participate, do I have time to discuss it with my loved ones?

Questions about testing...

- What kinds of tests will I have to do before the study?
- What kinds of tests will I have to do during the study, and how often?
- What will happen to my samples (for example, blood or biopsies) that are collected during the study?
- Who will my information be shared with?
- Will these tests be covered by my health insurance?

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Questions about benefits/risks...

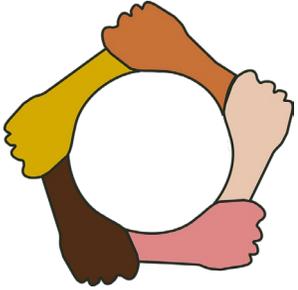
- What are the potential benefits of the treatment?
- Should I expect any side effects?
- Could I become more ill?
- Are there any other short-term or long-term risks to my health that I should know about?
- Are there reasons that would cause me to have to stop participating in the trial?
- How is patient safety being monitored and ensured?

Questions about treatment...

- What treatment/s will I receive during this study?
- Has this treatment been tested before? If so, what were the results?
- How does this treatment compare to what I am currently receiving?
- Are there alternatives to this treatment available to me?
- Will I know if I am receiving the investigational drug or the placebo?
- If I receive the placebo, could I switch to the treatment?
- How long will I be on this treatment?
- Will the treatment be covered by my health insurance?
- Who will oversee my progress during the trial?
- Will I be able to see my own doctor while I am enrolled in the trial?
- Will my doctor and I have access to my personal results?

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Diverse Backgrounds Needed! People of different ages, genders, and races/ethnicities may experience breast cancer in various ways and respond differently to the same treatment. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) encourages diversity in clinical trial participation because it helps researchers understand how a drug works in a wider range of our community and ensures better equity in cancer treatment options for all patients.

Questions about logistics & cost...

- Where will treatment be administered?
- Will costs, such as lodging, travel, and childcare, be covered by insurance or by the sponsor?
- How frequent are the follow-up visits with the doctors and nurses on the research team?
- Is there compensation for participating, including for time spent away from my job?

Other questions to consider...

- How will the privacy/confidentiality of my health and research records be protected?
- Could I continue receiving this treatment even after the trial?
- How will the study results and information be used?
- Could I leave the trial if I want/need to, or do I have to complete it?
- If English is not my native language, will there be someone who can translate for me?
- Could I encourage other breast cancer patients to participate?
- Are there other participants that I can talk to about the experience?
- What happens to other aspects of my healthcare, for example, specialty and dental care?
- Are there resources available to support my mental and emotional well-being while I am away from my support system?

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Search



Clinical trial finders: To help you get started with finding a clinical trial, here are a few links.



Find NCI-Supported Clinical Trials

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/clinical-trials/search>
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/clinical-trials/search/help>



<https://www.whenwetrial.org/search-clinical-trials/>



<https://clinicaltrials.komen.org/>



<https://beta.clinicaltrials.gov/>



<https://app.emergingmed.com/emed/home>



<https://www.breastcancertrials.org/BCTIncludes/index.html>



<https://moffitt.org/clinical-trials-research/clinical-trials/>

