

Physician discussion guide for your next appointment: Questions to ask

The next few pages list questions that many patients ask before joining a cancer research study. You can also print these questions and take them with you for your next visit.

Even the most caring doctors sometimes:

- May not have all the time you need to answer your questions in one visit.
- Use language or talk about medical procedures you don't understand.
- Don't have all the answers you need.

If you don't get all the answers right away, you can take more time. You and your doctor can work together to find answers before you make a choice about joining a research study. No matter what your doctor recommends, the choice to join or not to join a study is yours.

Costs

- Will I have to pay for any of the treatments or tests?
- What costs will my health insurance cover?
- Who can help answer any questions from my health insurance company or health plan?
- Will there be extra travel or child care costs while I'm in the study?
- Who is paying for the study?

Daily Life

- How could the trial affect my daily life?
- How often will I have to come to the hospital or clinic?
- Will I have to travel long distances to take part? Is there somewhere close to home where I could receive this treatment?

Comparing choices

- What are my other treatment choices, including standard treatments?
- How does the treatment I would receive in this trial compare with the other treatment choices?

Personal issues

- How could being in this study affect my daily life?
- Can I talk to other people in the study?
- Will I have to travel out of the city or state?
- Will I have to stay in the hospital for my treatment? How long?