

Clinical Trial Questions

You may wonder about the details of a specific study as you learn more about what clinical trials offer. Your cancer doctor or the clinical trial team can help you decide whether to participate.

Questions to ask the clinical trial team or your doctor

Your doctor might recommend a particular clinical trial, or you might have found a couple of clinical trials through an [online search tool](#). You should know as much as possible about each study to make an informed decision to participate.

Questions about the clinical trial itself

- What is the main goal of this study? Why is it being done?
- Are there any materials or previously published studies about this new treatment?
- What steps will the study take to protect my personal health information?
- What [phase](#) is the clinical trial in?

Questions about health risks and benefits

- What are the risks and benefits of this treatment?
- What side effects are possible with the new treatment? How do these side effects compare to current treatment side effects?
- Can I talk to other patients in the clinical trial?

Questions about time commitment

- How long will the clinical trial last?
- How much time do I have to decide to join?
- Where is the clinical trial taking place? Do I need to set aside extra time to travel?
- How often do I need to go in for tests or treatment?



Questions about **finances**

- Who is funding the study?
- Will I stay in the hospital for any part of the trial? If so, how long is the stay, and will my insurance cover it?
- Will I receive payment for my participation in the trial?

Questions about how the trial will impact daily life

- Will I have to stop my regular medications during the study?
- Will I be able to work during the trial? Should I take advantage of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or ask my employer about my options?
- Who oversees my care? Will I still see my regular cancer doctor? Will the researchers work with my doctor?

Questions about potential problems during the trial

- Who should I contact if I experience problems or have questions during the trial?
- Are there reasons why I might be removed from the clinical trial? Can the clinical trial be stopped early?
- What happens if I am removed from the trial?
- What tests will monitor my **safety**?
- What happens if something goes wrong during the study? What treatments or other benefits will I have access to?

Questions about next steps after the trial ends

- Will I have access to the treatment after the trial if it works for me?
- Are long-term check-ups planned after the treatment is over?
- Will I get the study results?

Clinical trial eligibility criteria

Every clinical trial has different [eligibility criteria](#). Eligibility depends on whether you meet both the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

During the screening process, you must match all requirements to join the study (inclusion) without having any barriers preventing participation (exclusion).

Inclusion criteria

Common inclusion criteria may include:

- A specific type of leukemia, such as [acute lymphoblastic leukemia](#) (ALL) or [chronic lymphocytic leukemia](#) (CLL)
- A certain stage of cancer
- A specific age group
- A specific genetic mutation (change) causing your cancer
- Previous treatment history (some clinical trials require trying several different treatments before qualifying for the trial)

Exclusion criteria

Common exclusion criteria may include:

- Current health conditions that may impact study results
- Medical history (you may not be able to receive the treatment due to a history of certain conditions)
- Treatment history (having or not having received certain cancer treatments in the past)

Find a clinical trial using our online search tool

The Leukemia Research Foundation's easy-to-use [online search tool](#) focuses solely on leukemia clinical trials. Use this tool to save time and effort looking for a trial to match your needs. The search tool uses your answers to specific questions to consider relevant details about your health situation.