

# Is a Clinical Trial Right for Me?

New leukemia treatments may become available through clinical trials as you research your treatment options. You'll have many factors to consider when deciding to participate in a clinical trial.

## Should I join a clinical trial?

Think about your “why” for joining a clinical trial:

- Do you want to help other people with the same type of cancer in the future? These people may even include family members at risk for developing the same condition.
- Do you want to try new treatments that might work better or have fewer side effects than existing treatments? These new treatments are not widely available for public use.
- Do you want to receive regular monitoring by healthcare professionals to track your progress?
- Do you want to be a part of scientific discovery and cancer treatment advancement?

After determining your motivation, develop a list of specific questions about the clinical trial process or a particular trial.

You will need a doctor's referral to take part in a clinical trial. Your oncologist (cancer doctor) should be able to answer your questions and address your concerns. They also can help you with the process of joining a clinical trial.

Learn more about what [clinical trial questions](#) to ask your doctor.



# Clinical trial benefits versus risks

Consider the pros and cons of participating in a clinical trial. Participating might be worth trying if there are more benefits than risks. Always consult your oncologist before participating in a clinical trial.

## Potential benefits

Participating in a clinical trial means you may:

- Help others with the same type of leukemia fight their disease with better or more treatment options in the future.
- Benefit directly from the new treatment—not available outside of the trial—because it might work better than existing treatments.
- Experience a sense of more active control over your health.
- Expand the boundaries of what researchers know about your condition and advance available treatment options for leukemia.
- Receive funding from sponsors or insurance coverage for part or all of your medical care and related expenses. This may not hold true for all clinical trials.

## Potential risks

One of the first questions you might ask is, [“Are clinical trials safe?”](#) Any medical procedure, treatment, or test carries an element of risk.

Clinical trial risks may be slightly higher because these risks are largely unknown. The trial aims to uncover these risks while keeping trial participants as safe as possible.

Some risks or drawbacks of clinical trials may include the following:

- Placement in the group that receives standard of care rather than new treatment
- Unknown side effects of the new treatment
- Differing treatment effects for each person
- Increased time or travel required to participate in the trial
- Added expense (read more about [clinical trial financial and insurance considerations](#))

You should have a better understanding of whether it is right for you after considering the pros and cons.

### 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.