

Clinical trials: questions to ask

These are some of the questions you may like to ask before deciding whether to take part in a clinical trial. You should ask to talk to a nurse or doctor in charge of the trial. We recommend that you bring a friend or a family member with you and that you take some notes and/or record the conversation.

About the trial

- What is the goal of the trial ?

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- What makes researchers think the intervention may be effective?

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- Has the study been approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB)?

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- Who is sponsoring the trial?

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- What will be the duration of the trial?

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- What are the trial end-points being studied?

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- How will the results be assessed?

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- Can I talk to a participant who is already enrolled in the trial?

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- Will there be a group of patients receiving a placebo?

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- Are any of the tested treatments already approved for commercial use?

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Risks and benefits

- What are the possible side effects and risks?
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- What are the expected benefits?
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- Will the trial be randomized and what will be the different treatments options?
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- How do the different treatment options compare in terms of risks and benefits?
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Treatment and procedures

- What kind of therapies, treatments, tests will be performed during the trial?
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- How will the treatment be administered?
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- Will it hurt or will it be uncomfortable?
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- What will be the frequency and duration of each medical intervention?
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- What kind of additional tests will be done?
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- Who will be taking care of me?
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- Will my official doctor be informed about my participation in the trial and its outcome?
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Effect on personal life

- How much of my time will be needed?

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- Where is the trial taking place?

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- How often will I have to travel to the clinical trial site?

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- Will I have to stay overnight?

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- How will my participation in the trial affect my personal life?

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- Will I be able to go on vacation?

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- Will the treatment affect me physically and/or emotionally?

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- Will I need to take time off work?

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Costs management

- Will I have to pay for any of the costs related to the medical treatment, tests and diagnostics?

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- Will I be compensated in case of an injury related to the trial?

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- How will my routine care be paid for while I am participating?

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- Will I receive compensation for the time spent traveling and participating in the trial?

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After the trial

- If the treatment was shown to be beneficial, will I be able to continue the treatment?
Who will pay for it?

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- How long will it take until the results are known?

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- How will I know about the results?

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- Will I be able to participate in the next phase(s) of the trial?

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- What happens if I decide to leave the trial?

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