CANCER EXPLAINED PRESENTS



QUESTIONS TO BRING

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ONCOLOGIST: CLINICAL TRIALS

Bring this list to your next appointment

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A CANCER EXPLAINED HANDOUT · BASED ON **NCI** · UPDATED **2026-07-05**
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Questions for Your Oncologist: Clinical Trials

Bring this list to your next appointment

1 Understanding the trial

- ? Could a clinical trial be appropriate for me at this point in my care?
- ? What is this study trying to find out, and what phase is it in?
- ? What treatments are being compared, and could I receive a placebo?
- ? What happens if I decide to withdraw from the study?

2 Benefits and risks

- ? What are the possible benefits for me?
- ? What are the known risks and possible side effects?
- ? How does the study treatment compare with my standard treatment options?
- ? Will I still receive standard care during the trial?

3 Logistics, costs, and daily life

- ? How often would visits, tests, or hospital stays be, and where?
- ? Who pays for the study drug or treatment, and what does my insurance cover?
- ? Can I keep working and travel during the trial?
- ? Who do I contact with questions or side effects between visits?

THE BOTTOM LINE

There are no wrong questions. Write down the answers — or bring someone who can — and take time before deciding.

Sources: NCI: Clinical trials information (cancer.gov/research/participate/clinical-trials)

Learn more in plain language: cancerexplained.org/clinical-trials/questions · **Updated:** 2026-07-05

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