

Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Lung Cancer Clinical Trials



Questions Every Lung Cancer Patient Should Ask About Clinical Trials

- Should I be considering a clinical trial at this point in my treatment?
- Are there clinical trials available for my specific type and stage of lung cancer?
- Have all of my tumor's biomarkers and mutations been tested (EGFR, ALK, KRAS, BRAF, MET, RET, ROS1, PD-L1, etc.)?
- Would additional molecular or genomic testing help identify trial options?
- Are clinical trials part of standard treatment planning for someone like me?
- Should I get a second opinion at an academic or research center about trial options?
- How do we balance potential benefits and risks when considering a trial?
- How might participating in a trial affect my overall treatment timeline?
- If I decide not to pursue a trial now, can we revisit this option later?

Understanding the Specific Trial

- What is the name of this clinical trial?
- What phase is this trial (Phase 1, 2, 3, or 4)?
- What is the main goal of this study?
- Why do you think this trial may be appropriate for me?
- Is this trial specifically for my type and stage of lung cancer?
- Is this trial designed for patients with my specific mutation (EGFR, ALK, KRAS, etc.)?
- How does this treatment work differently from my current or past treatments?
- What are the known risks or side effects?
- Are there unknown risks I should be aware of?

Treatment Details

- Will I receive standard treatment, the new treatment, or both?
- Is there a chance I will receive a placebo?
- How is the treatment given (pill, IV, injection, radiation)?
- How often will I need to come to the clinic?
- How long will I be in the study?
- What tests, scans, or lab work will be required?
- Will biopsies be required?
- What happens if the treatment stops working?

Side Effects and Safety

- What side effects have other patients experienced?
- What serious side effects should I watch for?
- How will side effects be managed?
- Who do I call if I experience symptoms after hours?
- Will participating affect my quality of life?
- What happens if I want to stop participating?

Logistics and Costs

- Where will treatment take place?
- Will I need to travel?
- How often are visits compared to standard treatment?
- What costs are covered by the trial sponsor?
- What costs are billed to my insurance?
- Will I need prior authorization from my insurance?
- Are travel or lodging expenses covered?
- Is there a research coordinator I can contact with questions?

Impact on Future Treatment

- If I participate, will this limit my future treatment options?
- If I choose not to participate, what are my other options?
- Can I still receive other treatments later?
- Will I still see you as my oncologist during the trial?
- How will this trial affect my long-term care plan?

Decision-Making Support for Care Partners

- What should my care partner know about this trial?
- What signs should my family watch for at home?
- How much help might I need during treatment?
- Are there support services available during the trial?
- Can we take the consent form home to review before deciding?

Remember: Participation in a clinical trial is always voluntary. You have the right to ask questions, take time to decide, and withdraw at any time. YOU are in control.