Important questions to ask before deciding to participate in a study?

- Why is the study being done?
- How long will my participation in the study last?
- Will I be receiving treatment or just providing information?
- If I receive treatment, how will it be given (pill, IV, implant, etc.)?
- How many visits will I make? Where do the visits take place? How much time does each visit take?
- Do I have to pay for any part of the study?
- Will my insurance cover any parts of the study?
- What are the risks of the study?
- What will happen to my medical care if I choose not to participate or withdraw from the study?
- Does the Investigator benefit if I participate?
- Who will be in charge of my care?

Go to
www.clevelandclinic.org/research
for a listing of available clinical trials.

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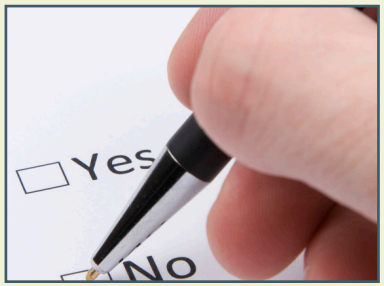
Research at Cleveland Clinic

Helping you make
an informed decision

Cleveland Clinic strives to be the world's leader in patient experience, clinical outcomes, research, and education. Our mission is to provide better care of the sick, investigation into their problems, and further education of those who serve. One way to carry out this mission is by conducting research to:

- Gather information on a disease or a group of patients
- Compare treatments to determine which is better (easier to use, fewer side effects, costs less, etc.)
- Study new uses for medications or devices that are approved for other indications
- Improve our understanding of and how best to treat disorders

As a patient at Cleveland Clinic, you may be asked to participate in a research study. Choosing to participate in research is an important personal decision. Your participation may be influenced by your interests and expectations about research. This pamphlet provides answers to common questions or concerns about volunteering for research. We hope this information helps you make an informed decision if you are asked to participate in a research study.



What is research?

Research takes many forms. Your doctor or a member of their team may ask you to complete a survey about your health or to participate in a trial to see if a new medication or device works and is safe. Some studies take only a few hours, while other studies follow patients for many years. The risks in a study may range from small to great.

How to participate in research?

Informed consent involves learning about a study before deciding whether or not to participate. The purpose, risks, benefits, alternatives, and costs will be shared with you. You will be provided a document that summarizes the study in greater detail. You should take time to fully read the consent and discuss it with your family. Make sure to ask the research team about anything you don't understand. If you decide to participate in the study, you will be asked to sign and date the consent document and you will be given a copy.

Even if you decide to participate, you may stop your participation at any time.

How are research subjects protected?

Researchers follow human subject protection regulations and ethical principles designed to protect research patients. Each study is reviewed by a panel of patient safety advocates called an Institutional Review Board (IRB). They review the study to make sure that patient's safety and rights are protected.

"No study can be successful without the participation of committed volunteers."
Michael J. Fox, advocate, author, actor and the founder of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 31, 2011)