Navigating Breast Cancer Clinical Trials

Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Treatment Clinical Trials

Questions about the Trial

- □ What is the purpose of the trial?
- □ How long will I be in the trial?
- □ What kinds of tests and treatments are involved?
- □ How will the doctor know if the treatment is working?
- □ How long do I have to make up my mind about joining this trial?
- □ Who will be in charge of my care?
- □ Is there someone I can talk to who has been in the trial?

Questions about Risks and Benefits

- □ What are the possible side effects or risks of the new treatment?
- □ What are the possible benefits?
- □ How do the possible risks and benefits of this trial compare to those of the standard treatment?

Questions about Your Rights

- □ How will my health information be kept private?
- □ What happens if I decide to leave the trial?

Questions about Costs

- □ Which costs do I have to pay if I take part in the trial?
- □ What costs will my health insurance cover?
- □ Who can I talk with about costs and payments?

Questions about Daily Life

- □ How could the trial affect my daily life?
- □ How often will I have to come to the hospital or clinic?
- □ Will I have to stay in the hospital during the clinical trial? If so, how often and for how long?
- □ How far will I need to travel to take part in the trial?
- □ Will I have check-ups after the trial?

Questions about Comparing Choices

- □ What are my other treatment choices, including standard treatments?
- □ How does the treatment I would receive in this trial compare with the other treatment choices?
- □ What will happen to my cancer without treatment?

Adapted from National Cancer Institute (NCI). Questions to ask your doctor about treatment clinical trials. NCI website. https://www.cancer.gov/aboutcancer/treatment/clinical-trials/questions. Updated April 11, 2022. Accessed August 2023.

