Med News Center

What is Informed Consent?

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Informed Consent is the process in which patients are given important information, including possible risks and benefits, about a medical procedure or treatment, genetic testing, or a clinical trial. As part of the informed consent process, members of the research team explain the details of the study and provide documentation that includes details about the purpose of the study, how long it's expected to last, tests or procedures that will be done as part of the research, and who to contact for further information. The informed consent document also explains the risks and potential benefits. You can then decide whether to sign the document.

Does the informed consent process stop once I join the trial?

No! Patients should also be given any new information that might affect their decision to continue in a trial as the study progresses.

Can I stop being in a trial after I have sighed the informed consent or started the study?

YES! Taking part in a clinical trial is voluntary and you can leave the study at any time. Even if you have signed an **Informed Consent Document, this is not a contract**. Participants may withdraw from a study at any time, even if the study is not over.

Where can I learn more about Informed Consent?

The National Library of Medicine:

https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000445.htm