

What should I ask my doctor about stem cells?



As a general rule, your GP is a great place to start, while your specialist will have more in-depth knowledge of your condition and available treatment options.

What are my options?

- Are there any approved stem cell treatments for my condition?
- Are there any stem cell clinical trials available for me?
- If there are, how do I go about accessing them?
- What can I expect, in general, from participating in a clinical trial (if one is available)?
- Besides stem cells, are there any new or upcoming treatments that might help my condition? Such as new drugs, or combinations of existing drugs, gene therapy or other cell therapies like immunotherapy?

I've found a stem cell clinic. Can you help me make sense of their claims?

- Is the treatment they provide an accepted medical treatment for my condition?
- Is there any evidence that this treatment could work?
- Are the claims about treatment outcomes made on the clinic website reasonable? What should I watch out for?
- How should I interpret the patient testimonials on the clinic's website; the treatment seems to have worked for them?
- What would the risks of undergoing this treatment be? They're using my own cells, so is this okay?
- The website claims that the doctor who will treat me is a "Stem Cell Specialist" what does this mean?
- They claim to be doing a clinical trial, have you heard about it? How can I find out more about the trial and make sure it is being properly run?
- Should I have to pay to be part of a clinical trial?