

### ***If You are Considering Participating in a Research Study (#33)***

Throughout the country, various clinical trials, medication studies and new protocols are being studied. Clinics are often looking for patients to be in these studies. The following points should be considered as you contemplate becoming part of an experimental study.

- Has the purpose of the research been explained to you?
- Have all the potential side effects or risks to participants been fully explained?
- Has this research project been reviewed by the Institutional Review Board at the clinic, hospital or medical school involved?
- Is all information on participants kept confidential?
- What if any tests will you need to undergo before starting in the study or clinical trial?
- Will you need to pay for these tests?
- Is this a controlled study, and will a placebo be used in this study? (In other words, could you be assigned to a group taking an inactive substance?)
- Is there long-term follow-up involved in the study? If so, how long will you have to be involved?
- Is it permissible and medically appropriate for you to stop the treatment or drug involved in the study if you are unhappy with side effects, etc.?
- Will you have to assume the costs of any of the treatment or medications being studied?
- Because you are involved in a particular study, does that mean you can not use other treatments while in the study? For example, if you are in a study involving ovulation drugs, can you use progesterone in the luteal phase as well?
- Have you signed a release form indicating informed consent? (Always sign in ink.)

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