

Clinical trials: Benefitting the Patient and Science

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Leah Watson, clinical research coordinator at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center

“Pros would be obviously, hopefully, curing [a patient's ailment], or at least giving [the patient] a longer life or less progression of disease. Some cons that we're seeing: our patients aren't willing to give personal data. A lot of times they don't want to share about their financial history or run a soft credit check. And some of those do require those different things for trials.” (:25)

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Leah Watson, clinical research coordinator at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center

“Side effects can be a big thing, especially with something quote-unquote new that's never been done or used in a different way. You just never know what type of side effects may arise, and everybody's different. So one person may get some, and another person gets a whole different set or none at all. So it's just a luck of the draw type of wait and see situation.” (:19)

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Dr. Manpreet Sandhu, medical oncologist and hematologist at OSF HealthCare

“It's only those less than 10% [of] patients – and in some institutions even less than that – that go on clinical trials because most of cancer treatment, we already know what the evidence is and what to do and how to treat such patients. But in those cases where it's a unique situation, it's a rare disease, or if patients have run out of options, standard options, that's where clinical trials come [in]to play.” (:26)

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Dr. Manpreet Sandhu, medical oncologist and hematologist at OSF HealthCare

“Things were available to us, but we never really used them prior to COVID. Same thing with telemedicine. We never really heard about telemedicine. We had computers. We had internet. We started thinking more broadly in terms of how we can use technology to serve applicable areas where patients could have the convenience of not having to come in and fill a form or answer their questions. Or do their visit with the research nurse or the doctor over [an] internet source.” (:32)