MRCT CENTER
THE MULTI-REGIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS CENTER OF BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL AND HARVARD

What is... Assent?

Assent means to **agree** to participate in research

Before joining a research study, it is *necessary* to inform the potential participant of the details of a study and get their **agreement to participate**.

Know Your Vocab!
click here to open the cheat sheet

Consent vs Assent

Consent

Some studies only need a parent or guardian's permission—or "consent"—for a child or teenager to participate.

Assent

Other studies need a parent or guardian's consent and the child or teenager's agreement, or "assent".

Both assent and consent mean permission to participate.

What should I know before agreeing to join a study?

You should know:

- WHY the research is being done
- WHAT you'll be asked to do as part of the study

What if I say YES to joining the study?

If you say yes, you'll become a participant in the study.

I agree!

Sometimes you'll just have to say you agree.

Sometimes you'll have to sign a form.

What if I say NO to joining the study?

You can absolutely say no!

I don't want to join.

If you say no, *you won't be enrolled* in the study.

It's important to know that your usual medical care won't be affected, even if you say no.

What if I change my mind after saying yes?

It's ok to change your mind!

If you want to leave the study, talk about it with your parents or guardians and the research team.

Here's some **questions** you could ask the research team to learn more about the study:

- What will happen to me in the study?
- Could something bad happen to me?
- Why am I being asked to participate?
- What will happen with my information?
- Will I benefit from being in the study?
- What's the purpose of this research?
- How long will the study last?

Questions?

Ask any questions you have!

You have the right to know!

You can learn more at:

mrctcenter.org/for-kids

ICAN Approved
www.icanresearch.org
International Children's Advisory Network

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