beneficial to others\(^1\) and these results have been echoed in other studies \(^3,4,8-12\). Overall, people are pleased to participate, despite anticipating possible distress. Professionalism, interpersonal skills, compassion, and awareness of the potential for negative experiences from participants are essential components in ensuring that participation in research “does no harm”. Provided these and other established ethical guidelines are met, there is a strong case for giving people the opportunity to decide whether the benefits outweigh the risks in their own particular situation.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Children’s Leukaemia and Cancer Society and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia supported this work. We sincerely thank all those who participated in the study.

**COMPETING INTERESTS**

None identified.

**REFERENCES**


(Received 3 Apr 2002, accepted 22 Jul 2002)