

Progression-Free Survival

Progression-Free Survival (PFS) is a clinical trial endpoint that measures the length of time during and after treatment that a patient lives with a disease (typically cancer) without it worsening.

Definition

PFS is defined as the time from the start of treatment (or randomization) until:

- **Objective disease progression**, as determined by standardized criteria (e.g., RECIST), or
- **Death from any cause**, whichever occurs first.

Key Features

- Indicates the **period of disease control** under a given therapy.
- Does **not require death** to be observed.
- Commonly used in oncology trials as a **surrogate endpoint** for overall survival (OS), especially when OS is difficult to measure in a timely manner.
- Higher PFS values may suggest **greater efficacy** of the therapeutic intervention.

Limitations

- May not always correlate with overall survival.
- Interpretation can be affected by **assessment intervals** and **imaging frequency**.
- Subject to **investigator bias** if not blinded.

Related Terms

- [Overall Survival \(OS\)](#)
- [Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors \(RECIST\)](#)
- [Disease-Free Survival \(DFS\)](#)

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