



How Do You Weigh Odds of Survival?

Name & Date _____

People evaluate the pros and cons of medical treatments in very personal ways. This explains why some people choose a treatment and others reject it. A big question is, how much would you be willing to endure if the chance of regaining your current health was high? What if the chance was low? Answer the questions below to assess your willingness to take such risks.

Imagine that you are seriously ill. The doctors are recommending treatment for your illness, but the treatments have **very severe side effects, such as severe pain, nausea, vomiting, or weakness that could last for months.**

Question: Would you be willing to endure such severe side effects if the chance that you would regain my current health was:
(Circle one answer for each)

High (over 80%)	Yes	Not sure	No
Moderate (50%)	Yes	Not sure	No
Low (20%)	Yes	Not sure	No
Very low (less than 2%)	Yes	Not sure	No

This worksheet adapted by the American Bar Association's Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly from R. Pearlman, et. al., *Your Life Your Choices – Planning for Future Medical Decisions: How to Prepare a Personalized Living Will*, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Seattle, Washington.