Should I testify to this opinion?

Is there specific research that supports this specific opinion?

No I don't know Yes

Do you have clinical experience, then that supports your opinion?

Time to do some homework. Start here:

Sort of?

This is a *yes* or *no* question—anything else is speculation. You shouldn't be testifying to an opinion just because it feels like it is correct. So which is it?

fying to an opinion just because it slike it is correct. So which is it? than a single study supporting your opinion?

Don't do it! Proceed, but

Yes

with clear understanding you're testifying

based on experience alone

Proceed cautiously—
unless it's to support an obscure
point or to disprove an "always"
or "never" theory, you're on
slippery ground

Is there more

Yes .

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed

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Is some of the research on this topic from the past decade?

Yes

Proceed cautiously—some older research is still quite reliable, but if there hasn't been *anything* published on the topic in the literature in the last decade, make sure it's not because the opinion is outdated.

Does the general body of research on this topic agree with your opinion, too?

No Yes

Time to do the analysis—is the methodology in the research on which you're relying sound? Have any other publications been critical of the study you are using? Does the field agree it's reliable? If not, proceed cautiously and be prepared to address this on cross.

Go ahead and give the opinion!