



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTORS

The more involved you are the better care you will receive. You can also ask important questions of your caregivers, family and friends to help determine the roles they can best fill for you throughout your cancer journey.

Questions To Ask Your Medical Oncologist

Questions About Cancer:

- Do you typically treat patients with my diagnosis?
- What stage is my cancer?
- Can you tell me if it is fast- or slow-growing?
- Is there anything unique about my cancer that makes my prognosis better or worse?
- Could this cancer cause a secondary problem (i.e., heart, lung or kidney damage/disease, fertility)?
- Am I at risk for a second cancer?

Questions About Your Physician(s):

- How many physicians will be involved in my care? Who are they? What are their roles?
- Who will be in charge of coordinating my care and the rest of the physicians?
- What other health care professionals can I expect to be involved in my care?

Questions About Tests:

- What types of lab tests will I need?
- Are there any special preparations for these tests?
- Do these tests have any side effects?
- Will I need X-rays and scans?
- When will I get the results from these tests?
- What will these tests tell me about my cancer?
- Can you explain my complete blood count results?
- Are there tests for the genetic make-up of my cancer?
- Will I benefit from having my cancer evaluated for its genetic make-up?
- How frequently will I have tests?
- How long after I have them will I know the results?
- Who will call with my results, or whom should I call?
- If I need copies of my records, scans or X-rays, who do I contact?

Questions About Your Cancer Treatment:

- What is the standard treatment for my cancer?
- What is the goal of treatment - to cure my cancer or stop it from growing?
- What are my treatment options?
- Are there any other treatments that might be appropriate for my type of cancer?
- How can each treatment option help me achieve my goal of therapy?
- Are there any clinical trials or research being done on my type of cancer?
- Are there any clinical trials that are right for me?
- Do you particularly recommend any clinical trials?
- Am I a candidate for any trials you recommend?

- Where can I find related research information?
- Is there anyone else in the area that is involved that I might contact to discuss my cancer?
- How much time do I have to decide on my treatment?
- What risks or potential side effects are associated with each treatment?
- What treatment do you recommend? On what do you base your recommendation?
- What are this treatment's cure/remission rates?
- What are the risks or benefits of the treatment that you are recommending?
- How many patients have you treated with this treatment? What have been the results? How does this compare to other institutions?
- What percentage of patients respond to this treatment?
- Who do you recommend I talk to for a second opinion?
- What are the names of all the drugs I will take?
- Can I talk with another of your patients who has received this treatment?
- How long is the entire course of the treatment?
- How long does each treatment last?
- How often will I be treated?
- Where will I receive the treatment?
- How will it be given?
- What will it feel like to get treated?
- Can someone accompany me to my treatment?
- Can I drive for my appointments? Is parking available?
- Can I stay alone after my treatments, or do I need to have someone stay with me?
- Who will administer my treatments?
- How often during treatment will I see a doctor? A nurse?
- Will a reduction or a delay of the recommended therapy reduce my chances of being cured?
- Should I avoid any foods or medications or activities while I am going through treatment?
- How will I know if the treatment is working?
- Will there be tests during my treatment to determine if it is working?
- What is the prognosis for my type of cancer with standard treatment?
- What results do you expect?
- How might a disruption in my chemotherapy dose or timing affect my results?
- How and when will I be able to tell whether the treatment is working?
- Are there any resources or web sites you recommend for more information?