



Learning you have cancer can be a shock and you may feel overwhelmed. Many times, patients do not know what to ask either at the time of diagnosis or when deciding on a treatment plan. Below are some suggested questions for you to ask as you learn more about your cancer.

Preparing for your first visit

Here are some other helpful suggestions as you prepare for your first appointment with your oncologist or surgeon:

- Write down questions you may have. This will give you a plan on where to start in your conversation with the physician.
- Don't be afraid to write down information during your appointment. This will help you remember what the physician is telling you.
- Ask if there is a nurse or a navigator available to provide you with locating additional local support services.

Questions to ask your doctor about your cancer diagnosis

1. What type of cancer do I have?
2. What is the stage of my cancer and what does that mean?
3. Has my cancer spread to other areas of my body? How serious is my cancer?
4. Is my cancer curable or will the treatments control my cancer?
5. What are my chances for survival?
6. Should I get a second opinion?

Questions about Cancer Treatment

1. How will my cancer be treated? What is the goal of my treatment?
2. What treatments do you recommend?
3. What tests will I need before my treatment begins?
4. Which physician will help me decide what treatment is best?
5. What is the goal of my cancer treatment?
6. Where will I get my treatment? Do I have to be hospitalized?
7. Would a clinical trial be an option?
8. What are the side effects of treatment?
9. Can I work during treatment?

Many patients find it helpful to maintain a file that contains copies of information, test results to have a history of their cancer care and treatment. Continue to write down questions and bring them with you to each appointment. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you or your family is having difficulty coping with the cancer diagnosis or treatment.