

# Questions to ask your doctor<sup>1,2,3</sup>

## About the diagnosis

- What type of cancer do I have?
- At what stage is my cancer?  
What does this mean for me?
- Has the cancer spread anywhere else?  
Where has it spread to?
- What does my diagnosis mean for my treatment  
and outcomes?
- Is this type of cancer caused by genetic factors?  
Are other members of my family at risk?



## Deciding on a treatment plan

- What are the side effects of the treatment?
- How often will I need to come in for treatment? How long will each session last?  
For how long will I need to continue this treatment?
- What are my chances for survival?
- Will I need to do any tests before we decide on treatment?
- What are the chances that my cancer will come back with this treatment plan?
- What would we do if the treatment doesn't work and the cancer comes back?
- Will I still be able to work while having the treatment?
- Will the treatment hurt or leave any physical scars?
- How much do I need to pay for treatment?
- Could this treatment affect my ability to become pregnant or have children?  
If so, should I talk with a fertility specialist before cancer treatment begins?



## Cancer treatment

- What are my treatment options?
- Which treatment do you recommend and why?
- What's the goal of my treatment?
- How should I prepare for treatment?

### During treatment

- How will I know if the treatment is working?
- Is there anything I can do to help manage side effects?
- Is there anything that I cannot do during treatment? (e.g. foods and medicines to avoid, can I exercise?)
- Once my treatment ends, how often do I need to come back for follow-up consultations with you?
- How can I keep myself as healthy as possible during treatment?



### Clinical trials

- What are clinical trials?
- Are clinical trials an option for me?

### Other support

- Is financial support available to pay for treatment? How do I apply for / use it?
- Are there any patient support groups I can join?
- If I start losing my hair, what can I do about it?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cancer.org/treatment/finding-and-paying-for-treatment/choosing-your-treatment-team/the-doctor-patient-relationship.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mdanderson.org/cancerwise/newly-diagnosed-cancer-patients-questions-to-ask-your-health-car.h00-158830434.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/cancer-control/en/worksheets/questions-to-ask-about-my-cancer.pdf>

