

Questions to ask after being diagnosed with cancer

Here are some questions to help you if you aren't sure what to ask. It can be overwhelming, so you may want to ask a friend or family member to go with you to help with questions and take notes.

Questions on the basics:

- Where is the cancer? Has it spread?
- What type of cancer is it?
- Do I need any more tests before we decide on treatment?
- Do I need to see other specialists?
- Should I get a second opinion?
- Who will be my point of contact moving forward?

Questions about treatment:

- What are my treatment options?
- What treatment do you think is best for me? Why?
- Who will be leading my overall treatment?
- How much experience do they have treating cancers like mine?
- Where do I have to go for the treatment?
- What will treatment be like and how many will there be?
- What are the goals of treatment?
- What is the success rate of this treatment for my type and stage of cancer?

Questions about treatment *(continued)*:

- How soon do I need to start treatment?
 - What can I do to get ready for treatment?
 - How long will each treatment take?
 - Will I be able to eat during treatment? What will we do if I can't?
 - Can I drive myself to treatment?
 - Does someone need to be with me during treatments?
 - Can I take my other medicines during treatment?
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Other important questions:

- What are the chances that cancer will come back?
 - What is the average life expectancy for my type and stage of cancer?
 - Are there any clinical trials I should look into?
 - Will my insurance cover treatment? How much will I have to pay?
 - What support groups and resources can I access?
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Making a decision

After you have answers from your health care provider, it's time to think about what you want. Make notes and set goals so you can talk about any concerns and desires with your health care team, family and friends before making decisions.

