

Questions to Ask your Doctor – Cancer Treatment

If you are facing up to a diagnosis it can be helpful for patients and their families to understand what their treatment options are. We have compiled some questions which can help understand what options are available when it comes to treatment. Please feel free to print off a copy and take along with you when you are seeing your doctor.

Treatment

- What are my treatment options?

- Will I receive radiotherapy? If yes, what kind of radiotherapy treatment is available (e.g., is it IMRT, VMRT)? Is this the best treatment for my condition or should I ask for a referral?

- Are there any research studies or clinical trial available which could help me?

- How long will I receive treatment for, how often, and where?

- Can I talk with other patients who have received this treatment?

Side Effects of Treatment

- What possible side effects should I prepare for?

- When might they start and how long will they last?

- Will they get better or worse as my treatment goes along?

- Are there treatments that can help relieve the side effects? What are they? Do you usually recommend or prescribe them?

- How can I best monitor side effects and my health during treatment?

Daily Activities

- How will my head and neck cancer treatment affect my usual activities?

- Will I be able to work?

- Will I need to stay in the hospital?

- Will I need someone to help me at home?

- Will I need help taking care of my kids?

- Are there any activities I should avoid during my chemotherapy?
