

Chemotherapy

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Learning that you have cancer is a difficult experience. After a cancer diagnosis, you may feel anxious, afraid or overwhelmed. So many thoughts are running through your mind that it might be easy to forget important questions and concerns. Before deciding on chemotherapy for the treatment of your cancer, make sure you understand your treatment options, expected benefits, side effects and risks.

Here are some questions to ask about chemotherapy, a common treatment for cancer. These questions can help you make important decisions about your care.

Also, you may want to bring a family member or friend with you to your doctor appointment. That person can help you ask questions and write down the information that the doctor gives you.

1. Why do I need chemotherapy? Are there other treatment options?

2. What is the goal of my chemotherapy?

3. What are the potential risks and side effects? Will they go away after my chemotherapy is over?

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4. What side effects should I watch for? When should I call my doctor?

5. How often will I get chemotherapy? For how long?

6. How can I expect to feel during chemotherapy and in the weeks following?

7. How much time do I have time to think about my options or get a second opinion?

Where can I get more information?

The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about clinical trials, cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.

Phone: 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

Website: www.cancer.gov



Carbone Cancer Center
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