

Lung Cancer
CHOICES
4th Edition



Questions to Ask

Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Your Lung Cancer Diagnosis

When you meet with your doctor, you will hear a lot of information. These questions may help you learn more about your cancer and what you can expect next.

What type of cancer do I have?

What is the stage of my cancer?

Has it spread to other areas of my body?

Will I need more tests before treatment begins? Which ones?

Will you help me find a doctor to give me another opinion on the best treatment plan for me?

How serious is my cancer?

What are my chances of survival?

Who can I contact with any questions or problems I may experience?

Should a family member or friend come with me to my treatment sessions?

Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Your Treatment (general)

You may want to ask your doctor some of the following questions before you decide on your lung cancer treatment.

What are the ways to treat my type and stage of cancer?

What are the benefits and risks of each of these treatments?

What treatment do you recommend? Why do you think it is best for me?

When will I need to start treatment?

Will I need to be in the hospital for treatment? If so, for how long?

What is my chance of recovery with this treatment?

How will we know if the treatment is working?

Would a clinical trial (research study) be right for me?

Will I need a specialist(s) for my cancer treatment?

Will you help me find a doctor to give me another opinion on the best treatment plan for me?

Will you help me find a social worker/patient navigator to help guide me through treatment?

Will I have a case manager to help with insurance questions?

Questions about Surgery

Surgery is one of the options for treating patients who are diagnosed with lung cancer. Sometimes surgery is the only treatment necessary, and sometimes surgery is combined with chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy.

Is surgery an option for me? If so, what kind of surgery do you suggest?

What are the risks, benefits and alternatives to surgery?

How much of the lung will be removed?

How will removal of the lung affect my breathing?

What is my recovery time in the hospital and at home?

If I have pain, how will it be controlled?

Do I need to arrange to have someone to help me with daily activities?

Questions about Radiation Treatment

The treatment of lung cancer depends on the type and stage and the patient's overall condition. Radiation therapy is one of the main options for treating patients who are diagnosed with lung cancer.

Why do I need radiation therapy?

What is my treatment regimen and how long will it last?

Can I continue my usual work and exercise schedule?

Can I miss a few treatments?

What are the side effects?

Questions about Chemotherapy

The treatment of lung cancer depends on the type and stage and the patient's overall condition. Chemotherapy is one of the main options for treating patients who are diagnosed with lung cancer.

What type of chemotherapy will I receive and how long will the treatment last?

What are the benefits and risks of chemotherapy?

What are the side effects of chemotherapy?

Can I work during treatment?

How will we manage nausea?

Questions about Targeted Therapy

Can my tumor be treated with targeted therapy?

What type of testing of the tumor is required?

What side effects can I expect with this treatment?

What are the potential benefits?

What are the potential side effects?

How can targeted therapy affect my daily routine and hobbies? Can I still go to my job, exercise, see my friends, etc.?

Questions about Immunotherapy

What is immunotherapy?

Is immunotherapy right for me? Do I need to be tested in order to be put on an immunotherapy treatment?

What are the potential benefits?

What are the potential side effects?

How can immunotherapy affect my daily routine and hobbies? Can I still go to my job, exercise, see my friends, etc.?

How is immunotherapy given, and how often do I undergo treatment? Where do I undergo treatment?

How long will I have to receive immunotherapy treatment?

How can I prepare myself before beginning immunotherapy? Can I eat, drink, etc. before or after receiving the medicine?

Are there any lung cancer support programs where I can speak with other people who received immunotherapy?

Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Treatment Clinical Trials

If you are thinking about taking part in a clinical trial, be sure to ask your doctor, “Is there a clinical trial that I can join?” If your doctor offers you a trial, here are some questions you may want to ask.

Questions about the Trial

What is the purpose of the trial?

Why do the researchers believe that the treatment being studied may be better than the one being used now? Why may it not be better?

How long will I be in the trial?

What kinds of tests and treatments are involved?

How will the doctor know if the treatment is working?

How will I be told about the trial's results?

How long do I have to make up my mind about joining this trial?

Who can I speak with about questions I have during and after the trial?

Who will be in charge of my care?

Is there someone I can talk to who has been in the trial?

Questions about Risks and Benefits

What are the possible side effects or risks of the new treatment?

What are the possible benefits?

How do the possible risks and benefits of this trial compare to those of the standard treatment?

Questions about Your Rights

How will my health information be kept private?

What happens if I decide to leave the trial?

Questions about Costs

Will I have to pay for any of the treatments or tests?

What costs will my health insurance cover?

Who pays if I'm injured in the trial?

Who can help answer any questions from my insurance company?

Questions about Daily Life

How could the trial affect my daily life?

How often will I have to come to the hospital or clinic?

Will I have to stay in the hospital during the clinical trial? If so, how often and for how long?

Will I have to travel long distances?

Will I have check-ups after the trial?

Questions about Comparing Choices

What are my other treatment choices, including standard treatments?

How does the treatment I would receive in this trial compare with the other treatment choices?
