



Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Cancer

Saint Louis University
Cancer Center
Division of Geriatric Medicine

Take a friend with you. Write the answers down or circle the answer.

1. What kind of cancer is it? _____
2. Is it a fast- or slow-growing cancer? FAST SLOW DON'T KNOW
3. Has it spread beyond where it started? YES NO DON'T KNOW
4. What kind of therapies are available?
Surgery Radiation Chemotherapy Combination
5. Where can I get printed material on each treatment? _____
6. How much longer can I expect to live with this cancer? _____
7. What percentage of people are alive at 5 years after diagnosis? _____
8. How much longer will I live with therapy versus no therapy? _____
9. Do I need to go into the hospital for therapy? YES NO
10. Are the costs of all treatments covered by my medical plan? YES NO SOME
11. How long will treatment last? _____
12. How do I get to speak to other patients with my kind of cancer?
Name: _____ Telephone #: _____
Name: _____ Telephone #: _____
13. What support group should I go to?
Name: _____ Contact: _____
14. What side effects does the therapy have?
Nausea Vomiting Fatigue Pain Infection Mouth ulcers Hair Loss
Diarrhea Sexual Dysfunction Other _____
15. When I have questions or side effects, who should I contact?
During working hours: Name _____ Telephone # _____
For emergencies: Name _____ Telephone # _____
16. How can I tell if the treatment is working? _____
17. Can I take my other medications while I am getting treatment for cancer? _____