

# Questions to Ask Your Doctor

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While you are being treated for cancer, it is important to ask questions. The more you know about your condition, the better equipped you will be to make informed decisions about your care.

## Staging and Treatment Options

What stage is my cancer?

Has the cancer spread to lymph nodes?

Has the cancer spread to other parts of my body?

What does the stage of my cancer mean for my outlook or prognosis?

What are the treatment options for my stage of cancer?

Do I have any medical conditions that limit my treatment options?

## Surgery

Do you recommend surgery for me and why?

What are the risks of surgery?

What can I expect when undergoing an operation?

How long will I need to be in the hospital?

How long will it take to recover from surgery?

What kind of help will I need as I recover from surgery?

If surgery affects my mouth, will I need a feeding tube for nutrition?

What kind of follow-up therapy will I need after surgery?

How will I look after the tumor is removed?

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Will I need reconstructive or plastic surgery?

### Radiation Therapy

Do you recommend radiation therapy and why?

How many radiation treatments will I need?

How long will the treatment take?

How will the radiation be given?

What can I expect when undergoing radiation treatment?

What are the short-term and long-term side effects of radiation?

What can I do to address side effects of radiation treatment?

After I finish radiation therapy, what kind of follow-up care will I need?

Will radiation treatment affect my salivary glands?

If so, what I can do to help with dry mouth?

### Nutrition/Eating

I'm having trouble eating. What can I do?

How can I keep from losing weight?

Do I need a feeding tube?

If so, what kind of feeding tube will be used and how long will I need it?

Do I need to be given IV nutrition?

Is there anything I can do about nausea?

# Questions to Ask Your Doctor

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## Recurrence

Is it likely that my cancer will come back?

Do I need to be screened to see if my cancer comes back?

What are the symptoms of recurrence?

How can I reduce my risk of recurrence?

What happens if my cancer recurs?

## Other Lifestyle Changes

Can I or should I exercise?

How often and at what level should I exercise?

I know I need to quit smoking. How do I start?