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Brain Stem Glioma - Childhood - Questions to Ask the Doctor [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 03/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will find some questions to ask your child?s doctor or other members of the health care team, to help you better understand your child?s diagnosis, treatment plan, and overall care. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Talking often with the doctor is important [3] to make informed decisions about your child?s health care. These suggested questions are a starting point to help you learn more about your child?s care and treatment. You are also encouraged to ask additional questions that are important to you. You may want to print this list and bring it to your child?s next appointment, or download Cancer.Net?s free mobile app [4] for an e-list and other interactive tools to manage your child?s care.

- What type of tumor has been diagnosed?
- Where exactly is the tumor located?
- Is the tumor diffuse or focal? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my child?s pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- Are other tests needed to confirm this diagnosis?
- What is your familiarity with my child?s tumor type and its treatment?
- What are the treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to my child at this center? How do I find out more about them?
- What new research is being done at other treatment centers? Where are they located, and are these clinical trials open to my child?
- What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- What is the goal of each treatment? Is it to eliminate the tumor, help my child feel better, or both?
- What are the chances for success with the planned treatments?
- Who will be part of my child?s health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my child?s overall treatment and follow-up care?
- What are the possible side effects of this treatment, both in the short term and long term?
- How will this treatment affect my child?s daily life? Will he or she be able to go to school and perform his or her usual activities?

- Could this treatment affect my child?s ability to become pregnant or have children in the future? If so, should I talk with a fertility specialist before treatment begins?
- If I?m worried about managing the costs related to my child?s medical care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What follow-up tests will my child need, and how often will he or she need them?
- What support services are available to my child? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

The next section offers some more resources that may be helpful to you. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Additional Resources, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/brain-stem-glioma-childhood/questions-ask-doctor
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/25171
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/29951