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## [Breast Cancer - Metaplastic - Questions to Ask the Doctor](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 08/2014

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will find some questions to ask your doctor or other members of your health care team, to help you better understand your 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 health care. These suggested questions are a starting point to help you learn more about your cancer 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 next appointment, or [download Cancer.Net's free mobile app](#) [4] for an e-list and other interactive tools to manage your care.

- What type of breast cancer do I have?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me? Is the sample of my tumor being saved for possible future testing?
- What is the size of my tumor?
- What is a sentinel lymph node biopsy? What are the benefits and risks? Would you recommend it for me?
- What is the risk of lymphedema with a sentinel lymph node biopsy? With axillary lymph node dissection?
- How many lymph nodes contain cancer?
- What stage is my breast cancer? What does that mean?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me? Where are they located, and how do I find out more about them?
- What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- Do I need additional surgery?
- Should I consider chemotherapy before surgery?
- What is the goal of each treatment? Is it to eliminate the cancer, help me feel better, or both?
- Who will be part of my health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my overall treatment and follow-up care? *What are the expected timelines for my treatment plan?*
- How much time will each treatment take?
- Will each treatment be the same? Does the dose change throughout the period of treatment?
- What are the possible side effects of this treatment, both in the short term and the long term?
- How will this treatment affect my daily life? Will I be able to work, exercise, and perform my usual activities?

- Could this treatment affect my sex life? If so, how and for how long?
- Could this treatment affect my ability to become pregnant or have children? If so, should I talk with a fertility specialist before cancer treatment begins?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- Would breast reconstruction be an option for me? If so, what are my options?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of breast reconstruction?
- What follow-up tests will I need, and how often will I need them?
- How will you determine if the cancer comes back?
- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

For additional questions, see the [Guide to Breast Cancer](#) [5]er.

*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.*

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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/breast-cancer-metaplastic/questions-ask-doctor>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24958>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/29951>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/31322>