

Carcinoid Tumor - Questions to Ask the Doctor [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[2\]](#), 05/2015

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 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.

Questions to ask after getting a diagnosis

- Where is the carcinoid tumor located?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What is the stage of my tumor? What does this mean?
- Do I have carcinoid syndrome? What does this mean?
- Is my heart affected by the tumor? How will you monitor my heart's health and performance?

Questions to ask about choosing a treatment and managing side effects

- 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?
- What is the goal of each treatment? Is it to eliminate the cancer, help me feel better, or both?
- What are the possible side effects of this treatment, both in the short term and the long term?
- Who will be part of my health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my overall treatment?
- 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 treatment begins?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

- Is there anything else I should be asking?

Questions to ask about having surgery

- Can surgery remove the entire tumor?
- If not, can surgery be done to debulk the tumor? What is the benefit of this?
- What type of surgery will I have?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this surgery?
- How long will the operation take?
- How long will I need to be in the hospital?
- Can you describe what my recovery from surgery will be like?

Questions to ask about having radiation therapy

- What type of radiation therapy do you recommend?
- What is the goal of radiation therapy?
- How many treatments will I need, and how long will each one take?
- What side effects can I expect during treatment?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having radiation therapy?
- What can be done to prevent or manage these side effects?

Questions to ask about having chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or targeted therapy

- Which drug(s) do you recommend?
- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How will the treatment be given? Through an IV or orally?
- How often will I receive this therapy? For how long?
- Will I receive it at a hospital or clinic? Or will I take it at home?
- What side effects can I expect during treatment?
- What are the possible long-term effects of taking this medication?
- What can be done to prevent or manage these side effects?

Questions to ask about planning follow-up care

- What is the risk of the cancer returning? Are there signs and symptoms I should watch for?
- What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the cancer treatment I received?
- What follow-up tests will I need, and how often will I need them?
- How do I get a treatment summary and survivorship care plan to keep in my personal records?
- Who will be coordinating my follow-up care?

- What survivorship support services are available to me? To my family?

The [next section in this guide is Additional Resources](#) [5], and it offers some more resources on this website beyond this guide that may be helpful to you. Or, use the menu on the side of your screen to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/carcinoid-tumor/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/18658>