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Eyelid Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 05/2012

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.

General questions:

- What type of eyelid cancer has been diagnosed?
- What stage and grade is the cancer? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- Do I need treatment right away?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me?

- 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 treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- What is the goal of each 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?
- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Whom do I call with questions or problems?

For people who need surgery:

- What type of surgery is recommended? Why?
- What are the side effects of this surgery?
- Will I need to stay in the hospital for this surgery? For how long?
- Will my vision be affected? For how long?
- Will I need reconstructive surgery?

For people who need radiation treatment:

- What type of radiation therapy is recommended?
- What does the preparation for this treatment involve?
- What is the likelihood of my eye being damaged?
- What other short-term and long-term side effects can I expect from this treatment?
- What can be done to relieve any side effects of radiation treatment?

For people who need an eye removed:

- How do I adjust to having one eye?
- How long will it take me to recover physically?
- What rehabilitation services are available to me?
- How soon can I get a prosthesis (artificial eye)?
- When do I get a permanent prosthesis?
- How do I care for my prosthesis?

After treatment:

- What are the chances that the cancer will return?
  What follow-up tests do I need, and how often do I need them?

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/eyelid-cancer/questions-ask-doctor
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/24958