

Eyelid Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [1], May / 2012

Questions to Ask the Doctor

Talking often with the doctor is important [2] 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?

Links:

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

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