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[Germ Cell Tumor - Childhood - Questions to Ask the Doctor \[1\]](#)

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[2\]](#), 03/2016

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 child's diagnosis, treatment plan, and overall care. To see other pages, use the menu.

[Talking often with the doctor \[3\]](#) is important 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.

Questions to ask after getting a diagnosis

- What type of tumor does my child have?
- Where is it located?
- Is it cancerous?

- If so, what stage is the cancer?
- Can you explain my child's pathology report, or laboratory test results, to me?

Questions to ask about choosing a treatment and managing side effects

- What are my child's treatment options?
- What clinical trials are available for my child? 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 tumor, help my child feel better, or both?
- What are the possible side effects of this treatment, both in the short term and the long term?
- How will this treatment affect my child's daily life? Will my child be able to go to school and perform his or her usual activities?
- If I am worried about managing the costs of medical care, who can help me?
- Could this treatment affect my child's ability to become pregnant or have a child in the future?
- Who will be part of my child's health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be leading my child's overall treatment?

Questions to ask about planning follow-up care

- What is the chance that the tumor will come back? Should I watch for specific signs or

symptoms?

- What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the cancer treatment I received?
- What follow-up tests will my child need, and how often will he or she need them?
- How do I get a treatment summary and survivorship care plan to keep in my personal records?
- Who will be leading my child's follow-up care?
- What survivorship support services are available to me/my child? To my family?

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

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/germ-cell-tumor-childhood/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/18895>