

[Home](#) > [Types of Cancer](#) > [Islet Cell Tumor](#) > Islet Cell Tumor - Questions to Ask the Doctor

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[Islet Cell Tumor - Questions to Ask the Doctor](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 06/2015

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 medical 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

- What type of tumor do I have?
- Is the tumor cancerous or benign?
- Is the tumor functioning or nonfunctioning? What does this mean?
- Has the tumor spread outside the pancreas?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?

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 tumor, help me feel better, or both?
- Do I need to start treatment right away?
- Who will be part of my health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my overall treatment?
- How experienced are you in caring for patients with this type of tumor?
- 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 medical 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

- What type of surgery do you recommend?
- Can you explain what will happen during the surgery?
- How long will the operation take?
- Will I need to stay in the hospital for this surgery? For how long?
- Can you describe what my recovery from surgery will be like?
- Will this surgery affect my ability to digest food? How? For how long?
- Will I need to take medicine, hormones, or enzymes after this surgery? For how long?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this surgery?
- What can be done to prevent or manage these side effects?

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

- What types of medication 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 treatment? For how long?

- Will I receive this treatment at a hospital or clinic? Or will I take it at home?
- How can I best prepare myself for this treatment?
- 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 tumor returning? Are there signs and symptoms I should watch for?
- What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the 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/my child? 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/islet-cell-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/18954>