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Sarcoma - Kaposi - Questions to Ask the Doctor [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 06/2013

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. 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.

General questions

- What type of Kaposi sarcoma do I have, and what does this mean?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me?
- 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?
- Do I need treatment right away?
- [If applicable] How will my HIV infection be managed during cancer treatment?
- 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 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?
- Whom should I call for questions and problems?

For patients who need surgery

- What type of surgery do you recommend?
- What are the common side effects of this surgery?
- Will I need to stay in the hospital for this surgery? For how long?

For patients who need chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or anti-viral treatment

- What type of therapy am I getting?
- What do I need to do to get ready for this treatment?
- What are the side effects of this treatment?
- What can be done to relieve the side effects?

For patients who need radiation therapy

- What type of radiation therapy am I getting?
- What does the preparation for this treatment involve?
- What do I need to do to get ready for this treatment?
- What are the potential side effects of this treatment?
- What can be done to prevent or manage these side effects?

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

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/sarcoma-kaposi/questions-ask-doctor
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/24958
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/25555