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[Liver Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor \[1\]](#)

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[2\]](#), 05/2016

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

[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.

Questions to ask after getting a diagnosis

- What type and subtype of liver cancer do I have?
- How large is the tumor?
- What is the stage of my cancer? What does this mean?
- Can the tumor be removed surgically? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?

- Am I a carrier of hepatitis B or C? What does this mean?

Questions to ask about risk factors

- Do I have cirrhosis of the liver? What does this mean?
- Do I have NAFLD? What does this mean?
- What are my treatment options?

Questions to ask about choosing a treatment and managing side effects

- What clinical trials are available for 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 cancer, help me feel better, or both?
- What are the chances for success with the planned treatment?
- 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 leading my overall 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 of cancer care, who can help me?
- 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?
- How much of my liver will be removed?

Questions about surgery

- Will I need a liver transplant?
- If I need a liver transplant, am I likely to be prioritized on the transplant waiting list? How long should I expect to wait?
- How long will the operation take?
- Will I need to stay in the hospital for this surgery? If so, for how long?
- Can you describe what my recovery from surgery will be like?
- What are the possible side effects of my surgery, in the short term and the long term?
- What type of treatment is recommended?

Questions about chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy

- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How will it be delivered (through an IV, a catheter, or a pill)?
- What does the preparation for this treatment involve?
- How long will it take to give this treatment?
- What side effects can I expect during treatment?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?
- What can be done to prevent or manage these side effects?
- What type of treatment is recommended?

Questions about radiation therapy

- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How long will it take to give this treatment?
- What side effects can I expect during treatment?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?
- What can be done to prevent or manage these side effects?
- What is the chance that the cancer 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?

Questions to ask about planning follow-up care

- What follow-up tests will I need, and how often do I need them?
- How do I get a treatment summary and survivorship care plan to keep in my personal records?
- Who will be leading my follow-up care?
- What survivorship support services are available to me? 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/liver-cancer/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/19147>