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## **[Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin - Childhood - Questions to Ask the Doctor \[1\]](#)**

**This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[2\]](#), 08/2015**

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will find some questions to ask your child's 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 on the side of your screen.

[Talking often with the doctor is important \[3\]](#) 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 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 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 NHL has been diagnosed?
- What is the stage of the disease? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my child's pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?

## Questions to ask about choosing a treatment and managing side effects

- What are the treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to 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 cancer, help my child feel better, or both?
- What chemotherapy or immunotherapy will my child receive?
- Should my child receive a bone marrow/stem cell transplantation?
- Will my child receive radiation therapy?
- Will my child need to stay in the hospital? If so, for how long? How often?
- Who will be part of my child's health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my child's 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 child's daily life? Will he or she be able to go to school and perform his or her usual activities?
- Will this surgery affect my child's ability to become pregnant or have children in the future? If so, should we talk with a fertility specialist before treatment begins?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my child's cancer care, who can help

me with these concerns?

## Questions to ask about planning follow-up care

- What is the risk of NHL returning? Are there signs and symptoms I should watch for?
- What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the cancer treatment my child 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 family's records?
- Who will be coordinating my child's follow-up care?
- What survivorship support services are available to my child? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

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.

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### Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lymphoma-non-hodgkin-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/19206>