

Medulloblastoma - Childhood - Questions to Ask the Doctor

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[1\]](#), May / 2013

Questions to Ask the Doctor

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 in this guide, use the colored boxes on the right side of your screen, or click ?Next? at the bottom.

Talking often with the doctor is important [2] 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 \[3\]](#) for an e-list and other interactive tools to manage your child's care.

- What type of tumor has been diagnosed?
- Is the tumor cancerous?
- What is the exact location?
- What is the stage (or risk group) of the tumor? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my child's pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What is your familiarity with my child's tumor type and its treatment?
- What treatment options are available to my child?
- What clinical trials are open to my child?
- 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?
- 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 and follow-up care?
- What are the possible side effects of each 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?
- Could this treatment affect my child's ability to become pregnant or have children in the future? If so, should I talk with a fertility specialist before treatment begins?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my child's medical care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What follow-up tests will my child need, and how often will he or she need them?
- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

To continue reading this guide, choose ?Next? (below, right) to see some additional resources that may be helpful to you. Or, use the colored boxes located on the right side of your screen to visit any section.

Links:

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
 [2] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24958>
 [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25555>