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Wilms Tumor - Childhood - Questions to Ask the Doctor

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Questions to Ask the Doctor

ON THIS PAGE: You will find some questions to ask your child's doctor or other members of your child's health care team, to help you and your child better understand his/her 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 cancer care and treatment. You are also encouraged to ask additional questions that are important to your family. 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.

- Can you explain my child?s pathology report (laboratory test results) and radiology reports (imaging test results) to me?
- Can you give me copies of these reports so I can have a record of them?
- What is the histology of the tumor? What does this mean?
- What is the stage of the tumor? What does this mean?
- What treatment options are available?
- 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 cancer, 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?
- How long will my child be in treatment?
- What are the possible side effects of each treatment option, both in the short term and the long term?
- What do I need to do if my child has abdominal pain with vomiting?
- Will this treatment change how my child goes through puberty?
- Will this treatment affect my child?s dental care?
- 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?
- If I?m worried about managing the costs related to my child?s medical care, who can help me with these concerns?
- Can my child play sports and, if so, which ones? Are there any precautions necessary when he or she participates in sports?
- What is the chance that the tumor will come back after treatment?
- Could this treatment affect my child?s ability in the future to become pregnant or have children? If so, should we talk with a fertility specialist before cancer treatment begins?
- If my child has children in the future, what is their risk of developing Wilms tumor?
- What follow-up tests will my child need, and how often will he or she need them?
- What support services are available to my child? 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 and your family. 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