

Osteosarcoma - Childhood - Questions to Ask the Doctor

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This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 11/2015

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 family 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 and 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](#) [4] for an e-list and other interactive tools to manage your child's care.

Questions to ask before a biopsy

- How experienced is the surgeon in doing this type of biopsy?
- If the diagnosis is bone cancer, is the surgeon part of a team that is experienced in treating people with bone cancer? If not, can you or the surgeon refer me to a team?
- Is the pathologist experienced in the diagnosis of osteosarcoma?

Questions to ask after getting a diagnosis

- What type (or subtype) of osteosarcoma does my child have?
- Can you explain my child's pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What stage is the osteosarcoma? What does this mean?

Questions to ask about choosing a treatment and managing side effects

- What are my child's 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 are the possible side effects of each treatment, both in the short term and the long term?
- Does this cancer center specialize in the treatment of children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer?
- 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?
- 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? If so,

should my family talk with a fertility specialist before cancer treatment begins?

- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my child's cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What support services are available to my child? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?
- Is there anything else I should be asking?

Questions to ask about having surgery

- What type of surgery will my child have? Will lymph nodes be removed?
- How long will the operation take?
- How long will my child be in the hospital?
- Can you describe what my child's recovery from surgery will be like?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this surgery?

Questions to ask about having chemotherapy or radiation therapy

- What type of treatment is recommended?
- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How long will it take to give this treatment?
- What side effects can my child expect during treatment?

- What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?
- What can be done to relieve the side effects?

Questions to ask about planning follow-up care

- What is the risk of the cancer 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 child's personal records?
- Who will be coordinating my child's follow-up care?
- What survivorship support services are available to my child? To my family?

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.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/es/node/19479>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/es/node/51>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24958>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/29951>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19480>