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Ovarian Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 05/2013

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 on the side of your screen.

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.

- What type of ovarian cancer do I have?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What is the stage and grade of my cancer? What does this mean?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me?
- Who will be part of my health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my overall treatment and follow-up care?
- 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 goals of each treatment?
- What type of surgery will be performed?
- What are the possible side effects of treatment, both in the short term and the long term?
- 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?
- How will this treatment affect my daily life? Will I be able to work, exercise, or perform my usual activities?
- If I?m worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What are the chances the cancer will recur?
- What does it mean to say ovarian cancer is a ?chronic disease??
- How can I keep myself as healthy as possible during treatment?
- What follow-up tests will I need, and how often will I need them?

- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Should other women in my family be tested regularly for ovarian cancer?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

The next section offers some more resources that may be helpful to you. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Additional Resources, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/ovarian-cancer/questions-ask-doctor
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/24958
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/25555