Vulvar Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [1], October / 2012

Questions to Ask the Doctor

Talking often with the doctor is important [2] 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.

- What type of vulvar cancer do I have?
- What is the stage of my cancer? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me?
- What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- Who will be doing the surgery? How experienced is this surgeon with this type of cancer?
- 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?
- Will I need reconstructive surgery?
- What are the possible side effects of treatment, both in the short term and the long term?
- How will this treatment affect my daily life? Will I be able to work, exercise, and perform my usual activities?
- How will this treatment affect my sex life, 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?
- If I?m worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- How can I keep myself as healthy as possible during treatment?
- What are the chances that the cancer will recur?
- What follow-up tests will I need, and how often will I need them?
- What support services are available for me? For my family?
- Whom do I call for questions or problems?

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[2] http://www.cancer.net/node/24958