

Questions To Ask Your Doctor About Your Cancer Treatment Prognosis

General Questions

- What is the goal of treatment? Is it directly treating the cancer or improving the symptoms, or both?
- How long does the average person with this cancer live? (Ask for a range, likely scenarios)
- How will I feel?
- What is my likelihood of a cure?
- If I cannot be cured, will I live longer with treatment? How much longer?
- Will I feel better or worse?
- Can I receive palliative care focused on maintaining the quality of my and my family's life during my cancer treatment?
- What options do I have if I don't want to continue my cancer treatment?
- When should I think about hospice? Can I meet with hospice now, when I am well?

Treatment

- What are my treatment options?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- How does this treatment compare with other treatment options?
- Am I healthy enough to undergo the treatment?
- What are the risks and benefits of treatment?
- What are the side effects of the treatment?
- Will treatment make me feel better or worse?
- What is the cost of the treatment?
- Are there clinical trials available?
 - o What are potential benefits of clinical trials?
 - o Am I eligible to participate?
 - o How do I enroll?
- Which hospital is best for my needs?

Vassar Brothers Medical Center
Dyson Center For Cancer Care
45 Reade Place
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



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Advance Care Planning

- Are there things I should be doing to plan ahead?
 - o Fill out a MOLST form (we can help with this).
 - o Choose a health care proxy (and alternate) who can speak for me if I am unable.
 - o Address financial or family legal issues.
 - o Appoint a durable power of attorney for financial affairs
 - o Write notes or create DVDs for loved ones.

Psychosocial/Other

Who is available to help me cope with this situation?

- Are there financial counselors available?
- I'm worried about paying for all this — are there any types of assistance plans available?

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