

Questions to Ask...



when breast cancer is diagnosed

ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR DIAGNOSIS.

1. What did my biopsy show?
2. What kind of breast cancer do I have?
3. What were the results of my estrogen and progesterone tests? What were the results of the other tests?
4. What tests will I have before surgery to see if the cancer has spread?
5. Can I get a copy of the pathology report of the biopsy for my records?
6. How would you classify the stage of my cancer at this point?

ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS BELOW WILL HELP YOU DETERMINE THE BEST TYPE OF TREATMENT FOR YOU.

1. What are my treatment options? What procedures are you recommending for me and why?
2. What are the potential risks and benefits of these procedures?
3. Will my lymph nodes be removed and tested at the time of my surgery? Am I a candidate for sentinel node biopsy? Why or why not?
4. Ask this question if the tests were not done during the biopsy: Will estrogen and progesterone receptor tests be done on the tissue removed during surgery? What will these tests tell you? Will other special tests be done on the tissue?
5. Am I a candidate for breast-conserving surgery (*lumpectomy/partial mastectomy*)?
6. If a mastectomy is recommended, am I a candidate for reconstructive surgery?
7. Will I need additional treatment with radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and/or hormonal therapy following my surgery? If so, can you refer me to a medical oncologist or a radiation oncologist? If I do need chemotherapy and/or radiation, will this affect the timing of my reconstruction?

(continued)

Questions to Ask...



when breast cancer is diagnosed (continued)

8. Can breast reconstruction be done at the time of the surgery, as well as later? What would you recommend for me?
9. What potential risks and benefits are involved?
10. If I choose not to have reconstruction, how can I find out about breast prostheses? Will my insurance cover this?
11. How long do I have to make a treatment decision?
12. What is a clinical trial? Is there a clinical trial that is enrolling patients with my type of breast cancer? If so, how can I learn more?
13. Could you recommend a breast cancer specialist at another hospital for a second opinion?

ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS BELOW WILL HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE RESULTS OF YOUR SURGERY.

1. Where will the surgical scar(s) be? Can the incision be done with cosmetic consideration, re: the location of the scar?
2. What physical and emotional side effects can I expect after the operation?

