

Questions for your Doctor

Before TC, many patients have not had much experience with doctors or specialists other than at regular exams or check-ups. With all these new words being thrown at you, it can be hard to know what is going on! It always helps to be as educated as possible on your situation, so we've prepared this list of questions to print and take with you to your doctors appointments. If a partner or friend accompanies you to your appointments, consider having her or him also fill out a Q/A chart to make sure you both interpreted what the doctor had to say correctly. Two sets of ears are better than one! And don't be afraid to ask questions, no matter how silly they seem. The more open you are with the doctor, the better he can help with any concerns you are having.

Question	Answer
Where exactly is my cancer located?	
Has it spread to other regions outside of the testicle?	

What “stage” cancer do I have? What does that mean?

Do I have a seminoma or a non seminoma?

What is my prognosis?

How do I obtain a copy of my pathology reports? What do they mean?

What are my treatment options?

Will I lose a testicle?
Will I get a prosthesis?
What are the complications

Should I consider sperm banking? Will
treatment make me impotent?

What is the goal of treatment?

How long will treatment last?

What side effects are common with this treatment? Will I lose my hair?

Where are treatment centers located? How experienced are the doctors there?

Should I consider taking part in a clinical trial?

How likely is TC to come back after finishing treatment?

How do I find out what my insurance will cover?

How do I pay for what insurance doesn't cover?

How will testicular cancer affect my everyday life? (Work, family, hobbies, etc.)

What risks are present?

Would it be helpful to get a second opinion?

How will my family be affected?

How should I tell my kids?

What changes should I make to my lifestyle? (diet, exercise, etc.)

How can I prepare for treatment? Should I eat before? Do I need to bring anything special?

How can you tell if treatment is working?

What if it isn't working? What other options do I have?

In case of an off-hours emergency, who should I contact?

Is there anything I can't do because of TC or treatment?

How many times a week should I expect to have doctors appointments?

Are mental health professionals available to talk with me about the psychological side effects of cancer? How do I contact them?

If you have any questions of your own, consider writing them here so you don't forget to ask your doctor! Ask about things unique to your situation (work schedule insurance coverage, family planning, stage, etc.)

American cancer society. Questions to ask your doctor when you have cancer. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.cancer.org/treatment/findingandpayingfortreatment/treatmentdecisiontoolsandworksheets/questionstoaskyourdoctor/index>