

PANCREATIC CANCER CANADA

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

When you are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, it may feel overwhelming to receive a lot of information from healthcare professionals. Being prepared for your appointment with the doctor can help you gain a better understanding of your diagnosis and your treatment options.

Here are some suggested questions to ask:

- What is the stage of my cancer and what does it mean? Has the cancer spread?
- What are the symptoms that I may experience from the cancer?
- Do I need any more tests to find out whether I qualify for surgery?
- For a surgeon: How many surgeries have you performed on people with pancreatic cancer? How many in the past year?
- What are my treatment options? What are the benefits of each form of treatment? What do you suggest for me and why?
- What can I do to prepare for treatment and do I need to stay in the hospital? If so, for how long?
- What are the risks and side effects of each treatment?
- Do you suggest clinical trials as a form of treatment?
- How will you manage my pain?
- Will my diet need to change and do you have a dietician I can consult? Will my ability to work be affected?
- Are there any lifestyle changes I need to make?

Ask An Expert

Even if you feel comfortable with the answers a doctor gives, it might be advantageous to seek a second opinion or get more information. Second opinions can be extremely valuable when making decisions about treatment.

Ask an Expert is a free service that helps patients, caregivers and families make informed decisions about care and treatment options.

Learn more: www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca/ask-an-expert/