



A Champion for Pancreatic Cancer

Questions to ask your doctor prior to treatment ...

When you are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, it may feel overwhelming to receive a lot of information from healthcare professionals. Being prepared you're your meetings with the doctor can help you gain a better understanding of your diagnosis and your treatment options. Here are some suggestions of 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 do you suggest for me and why?

What are the benefits of each form of treatment?

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?

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