



Australian Government

Cancer Australia

National Centre for
Gynaecological Cancers

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCERS

Question checklist

Questions you can ask your doctor

It is important to remember that you are the most important person on your health care team. You are a consumer of services, and you have the right to ask questions about what treatment you are getting and who is providing it. If you are not happy with the information you are given – or how it is given – you should not be afraid to tell the doctor about your concerns.

You may find this checklist helpful when thinking about the questions you want to ask your doctor about your illness and treatment. If your doctor gives you answers that you don't understand, it is okay to ask for clarification.

1. What type of [cervical] cancer do I have?
2. How extensive is my cancer?
3. What are my treatment options?
4. What are the expected outcomes of each option including benefits and complications?
5. How likely is it each of these outcomes will occur (that is, how likely is it the treatment will be successful and how likely is it the complications will occur)?
6. What treatment do you recommend and why?
7. Are the latest tests and treatments for my type of cancer available in this hospital?
8. Will I have to stay in hospital?
9. How long will treatment take? How much will it affect what I can do? How much will it cost?
10. Will I have a lot of pain with the treatment? What will be done about this?
11. Will the treatment affect my sex life?
12. Will the cancer or treatment affect my fertility?
13. Are there any clinical trials of new treatments?
14. How frequently will I have checkups?
15. Are there any complementary therapies that might help me?

Talking with others

Once you have discussed treatment options with your doctor, you may want to talk them over with family or friends, nursing staff, the hospital social worker or chaplain, your own religious or spiritual adviser, or the Cancer Council Helpline (13 11 20). Talking it over can help sort out the right course of action for you.

Sources

We thank the Cancer Council New South Wales (www.cancercouncil.com.au) for allowing their information to be used for this factsheet.

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CANCER AUSTRALIA

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The National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers is an Australian Government initiative to improve outcomes for women affected by gynaecological cancers, their families and carers, and to lessen the impact of cancer on their lives. It has been established by Cancer Australia.

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