



General Questions to Ask Your Doctor

1. What type of breast cancer do I have?

2. How big is my tumor?

3. Can you explain my pathology report to me? Can I have a copy for my records? (Be sure to include in binder.)

4. What is my estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor status? What is my HER2 status?

5. Do you know the stage of my cancer yet, and what does that mean?



6. Will I need surgery? What type of surgery do you recommend, and why?

7. Can you explain a sentinel node biopsy? Will I have this done?

8. Will I need chemotherapy? How do we decide?

9. Will I need radiation?

10. How quickly do I need to make a decision about my cancer treatment?

11. What type of doctors should I see and what do they do? Which type of doctor should I see first?



12. Can you schedule me with a genetic counselor to get BRCA tested?

13. What are the side effects of each treatment option?

14. Based on my diagnosis and genetic profile, what is the chance that cancer will return to my breasts? How do my treatment options affect these chances? If I have a choice of lumpectomy or mastectomy, how does that decision affect my chances of in breast recurrence?

15. If I am worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns? Who can help me understand what aspects of my care are covered by my insurance?

16. Are there any brochures or other printed material I can take with me?



17. What medications and supplements should I stop taking?

18. Should I stop taking hormone replacement therapy?

19. Should I stop taking birth control pills?

20. What is metastatic breast cancer and how does that possibility impact my decision making?

21. If we went to 10 doctors would they tell us the same thing? If not, what else might they recommend and why?

Additional Notes:



23. What side effects could I have following surgery? Which ones should I report to you? Will any of the side effects be longterm?

24. Are there exercises I should do after surgery that would help toward recovery? Are there any that I should avoid?

25. Can you explain lymphedema to me and how do I recognize it? What can I do to prevent it?

26. Where will the scars be and what will they look like?

27. When can I return to work and other daily activities?

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Additional Notes: