



## Suggested Questions for your Doctor

- What kind of breast cancer do I have?
- How many tumors do I have, and how large are they? What is my tumor grade?
- What are the breast cancer stages and how is staging determined? What stage cancer is my cancer?
- What has been done to exclude cancer in other areas of the same breast or in my other breast?
- Has the cancer spread to my lymph nodes or any other internal organs?
- Can I have my biopsy reviewed by a pathologist at another diagnostic center? What other studies should be done on my tissue biopsy?
- What kinds of additional tests will I need?
- How urgent is it that I make decisions and begin treatment?
- What treatment options are available and appropriate for my cancer? Are there any less or more aggressive treatment options available?
- Will I need chemotherapy, radiation, or both? How often will I receive treatment and how is it given? Is there anything I should do to prepare for treatment? What side effects can I expect?
- Can I continue my usual routine while I am in treatment? (work schedule, exercise, etc.)
- Are there any foods, vitamins, supplements, or over-the-counter medications I should avoid? Are there any recommended dietary changes or additions I should make?
- Are there any sexual side effects of treatment? If so, how long will they last?
- Will treatment affect my fertility? If I do become pregnant after treatment, what concerns should I be aware of? Does having reached menopause (or not) affect my treatment?
- Will I need breast surgery? If so, will I need a mastectomy or a lumpectomy? Should I undergo any kind of treatment before breast surgery? Will I have normal sensation in my breast(s) after surgery?
- How long is the recovery process after surgery?
- Should I have breast reconstruction surgery? If so, how long after surgery should I wait before having reconstruction?
- Are there any clinical trials I can participate in?
- What are the chances that my cancer will come back after I undergo the treatment programs we discussed? What would be our plan of action if that were to happen?