

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Chemotherapy and Side Effects

Chemotherapy uses drugs to kill cancer cells. It can stop the growth of a tumor in the breast and kill cancer cells that have spread to other parts of the body. It usually begins 4 to 6 weeks after surgery. It can be given in many ways. A few of the drugs can be given by mouth or through a vein (intravenous or IV). Chemotherapy may also be given before surgery.

You may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to start the conversation. More can be found [here](#).

Q: Why do I need chemotherapy? When should I begin chemotherapy? Is there a clinical trial I can join? Will I need other treatments?

A: _____

Q: What were the estrogen receptor status and progesterone receptor status of my tumor? How do these affect my treatment plan?

A: _____

Q: Are there tumor profiling tests that can be done on my tumor to help decide whether I should have chemotherapy?

A: _____

Q: What drugs will I take and why were those chosen for me?

A: _____

Q: How will the chemotherapy be given? How many treatments will I have?

A: _____

Q: Where will the treatment take place? How long will each treatment take? Will I need someone to go with me?

A: _____

Q: What are the possible side effects? How long will they last? What are the long-term risks? Which side effects should I report to you?

A: _____

Q: Are there medicines I can take to prevent or treat side effects?

A: _____

Q: Are there any complementary and integrative therapies that may help me cope with side effects? Any I should avoid?

A: _____

Q: During treatment, will I be able to continue my normal activities (work, exercise, etc.)?

A: _____

Q: What out-of-pocket costs may I expect?

A: _____

Notes:



For more information, visit komen.org or call Susan G. Komen's Breast Care Helpline at 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, or email at helpline@komen.org. Se habla español.

1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) komen.org