

Some questions to ask your doctors about melanoma

A melanoma diagnosis can create more questions than it does answers. It can be hard to know where to start. However, getting the right information from your medical team can help you make treatment decisions that are right for you. While this is not a complete list, the following questions can help guide your conversations with your doctors following a diagnosis. And remember — there is no question too small.

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What kind of melanoma do I have?

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What stage is it?

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What options do I have to treat this particular type of cancer?

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What are the potential risks and benefits of these treatment options?

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Would the aim of treatment be to get rid of the cancer, make me feel better, or both?

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How quickly do we need to decide on a treatment plan?

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What do I need to do to prepare for treatment?

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How do we know if the treatment is working?

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What potential side effects should I expect?

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Are there any side effects for which I should seek emergency medical care?

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Are there any lifestyle changes I need to make?

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Are there any limits on what I can do?

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What support services are available for my loved ones and me? Should I consider a clinical trial?

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Is there a clinical trial you would recommend as an alternative to treatment?

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