



Questions to Ask the Health Care Team

Having open communication with the neuro-oncology or neuroscience medical team at the hospital is important in making informed decisions about health care options. It is not uncommon to feel nervous or only hear part of what is said at a doctor's appointment or hear information differently from someone else.

It can also be a challenge to get answers to all your questions at one doctor's appointment. Consequently, it is a good idea to go with your loved one diagnosed with a brain tumour, and / or ask a family member or friend to attend with you and your loved one to medical appointments so they can take notes.

Knowing what to ask is also important, and the following suggested questions are meant for you and your family to think about and discuss with various members of your medical team. You are also encouraged to ask additional questions that are important to you:

General questions to ask:

What is the name of the brain tumour?

What is the tumour grade? What does this mean?

Can you explain the pathology report (laboratory test results) to us?

Who will be part of our health care team, and what does each member do?

Can you refer us to any local services that offers / rents equipment needed in our home to help with mobility?

Should we get a second opinion?

How many brain tumours do you treat each year?

Treatment Questions:

*What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
How long will the treatment take to complete?*

What are the possible side effects of each treatment, both in the short term and the long term?

*How does this treatment affect someone's daily life?
Is the person diagnosed able to work, exercise, and perform their usual activities?*

How will the recommended treatment affect prognosis?

Are there any clinical trials for this type of brain tumour?

See additional questions on reverse side.



Surgery Questions:

What type of surgery are you recommending?

How long will the surgery take?

How long is someone typically in the hospital after surgery?

Can you describe what recovery from surgery will be like?

Who should we contact about any side effects? And how soon?

What are the possible long-term effects of having this surgery?

Who should we contact about any side effects I experience? And how soon?

What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?

What can be done to relieve the side effects?

Questions about planning follow-up care:

What is the chance that the tumour will come back? Should we watch for specific signs or symptoms?

What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the treatment received?

After treatment, what follow-up tests will be needed, and how often?

How do we get a treatment summary and survivorship care plan to keep in my personal records?

Who will be leading the follow-up care?

What survivorship support services are available?

Radiation Therapy Questions:

What type of treatment is recommended?

What is the goal of this treatment?

How long will it take to give this treatment?

What side effects can we expect during treatment?

Brain Tumour Walk events take place in May and June each year
Learn more and register at www.BrainTumourWalk.ca.