

Question checklist for bowel cancer

Asking your doctor questions will help you make an informed choice. You may want to include some of the questions below in your own list.

Diagnosis

- What type of bowel cancer do I have?
 - Has the cancer spread? If so, where has it spread? How fast is it growing?
 - Are the latest tests and treatments for this cancer available in this hospital?
 - Will a multidisciplinary team be involved in my care?
 - Are there clinical guidelines for this type of cancer?
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Treatment

- What treatment do you recommend? What is the aim of the treatment?
 - Are there other treatment choices for me? If not, why not?
 - Will I need a stoma? If so, will it be temporary or permanent?
 - Will you refer me to a stomal therapy nurse?
 - If I don't have the treatment, what should I expect?
 - I'm thinking of getting a second opinion. Can you recommend anyone?
 - How long will treatment take? Will I have to stay in hospital?
 - Are there any out-of-pocket expenses not covered by Medicare or my private health cover?
Can the cost be reduced if I can't afford it?
 - How will we know if the treatment is working?
 - Are there any clinical trials or research studies I could join?
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Side effects

- What are the risks and possible side effects of each treatment?
 - Will I have a lot of pain? What will be done about this?
 - Can I work, drive and do my normal activities while having treatment?
 - Will the treatment affect my sex life and fertility?
 - Should I change my diet or physical activity during or after treatment?
 - Are there any complementary therapies that might help me?
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After treatment

- How often will I need check-ups after treatment?
 - If the cancer returns, how will I know? What treatments could I have?
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My questions
