

## Question checklist for Head and Neck Cancers

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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.

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### Diagnosis

- What type of head and neck cancer do I have?
  - Has the cancer spread? What do the staging numbers mean?
  - 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?
  - Who can I speak to for support?
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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?
  - 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 possible side effects of the treatment? Will they be permanent?
  - 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?
  - Are there any complementary therapies that might help me?
  - Will my face or neck have significant scarring or will I look different?
  - Will I need to have a tracheostomy or stoma? Will my speech be affected?
  - What kind of rehabilitation can I have?
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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

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