

## Question checklist for living with advanced cancer

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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 cancer do I have?
  - What stage is my cancer?
  - How far has the cancer spread? How fast is it growing?
  - What is my prognosis? Do I need to have any more tests? If so, what will the tests involve?
  - How long am I likely to live? What are the usual survival times for people with this type of cancer?
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### Treatment

- What treatment do you suggest and why? How often will I need to have it? Will it affect my quality of life?
  - Are there any other effective treatment options for me? If not, why not?
  - What is the treatment goal? To control the cancer, or to relieve symptoms?
  - Are there any clinical trials I can join?
  - Are there any complementary therapies that might help?
  - If I don't have treatment, what can I expect? Will it affect my quality of life?
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### Side effects

- What treatment do you suggest for any pain or discomfort?
  - Are there any symptoms I should look out for and tell someone about?
  - What are the risks and possible side effects of each treatment?
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### Palliative care

- What support options are available to me? Where can I get palliative care?
  - Can I call the palliative care team at any time?
  - Does the palliative care team inform my GP and other specialists about my care?
  - Do I have to pay for any palliative care services?
  - Can you help me talk to my family about what is happening?
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### My questions

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