

Question checklist for thyroid 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 thyroid 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?
 - Are there clinical guidelines for this type of thyroid 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?
 - If I don't have the treatment, what should I expect?
 - How long do I have to make a decision?
 - 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?
 - Do I need to take any safety precautions after this treatment?
 - 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? Will these affect my thyroid hormone replacement medicine?
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After treatment

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