

Questions for Your Physician

Your treatment plan depends on several factors. However, deciding on a treatment is a personal matter, and should be determined by you and your physician together. The type of treatment you decide on should be based on the risks and benefits and how they relate to your own values and lifestyle.

Answers to these questions will help you determine the best treatment plan for you.

1. What are my treatment options? What do you recommend for me and why?
2. What's your opinion about breast-conserving surgery (lumpectomy) followed by radiation therapy? Is this treatment right for me? (If considering this option, you should consult with a radiation oncologist).
3. What is a sentinel node biopsy? Will I have this done? And how accurate is a sentinel lymph node biopsy in my case?
4. Will I need more treatment after my surgery? If so, will you refer me to a radiation oncologist for radiation therapy and a medical oncologist to discuss the need for chemotherapy or hormonal therapy
5. Can breast reconstruction be done at the time of the surgery, as well as later?
6. If I choose not to have reconstruction, what can I do? What types of breast prostheses are available?
7. How long do I have to make a treatment decision?
8. What will my insurance cover?
9. Is there a clinical trial for patients with my type of breast cancer? If so, how can I learn more?
10. What are activities or things I should avoid during cancer treatment? Do you have any specific instructions on what I can and cannot do after breast cancer surgery?