

Treatment Questions



TREATMENT QUESTIONS FOR ALL BRAIN TUMORS

1. What are the risks and benefits of surgery for me?
2. What can I do to manage symptoms or side effects?
3. Will my symptoms go away?
4. Will I experience different symptoms or cognitive problems after surgery?
5. Where and how big will the incision be? Will you have to shave my head?
6. How long will I be hospitalized after surgery?
7. Who will be involved with care for my recovery? How long?
8. Will I need rehabilitative care such as speech, physical, or occupational therapy? How long?
9. Will I have to see a neuro-oncologist for chemotherapy or radiation oncologist for radiation therapy?
10. Who is responsible for my follow-up care?
11. Do you anticipate a recurrence of this type of tumor?
12. Can I donate my tumor tissue to research?



TREATMENT QUESTIONS FOR HIGH GRADE TUMORS

1. How can I tell the difference between treatment side effects and brain tumor symptoms?
2. What are the standard guidelines to treat my tumor vs. what you recommend? Why?
3. Can you recommend a clinical trial for my care?
4. What will my life be like after treatment?
5. What is the likelihood that radiation and chemotherapy will help? What are the pros and cons of my options?
6. If I decide not to undergo further treatment, what will my progression look like?
7. Can you recommend a social worker or support group to help me and my family cope with my future life?
8. What else can I do to improve my quality of life, and the quality of life of those who care for me?



The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines set the standard for treating brain tumors. The way that different institutions and physicians approach treatment starts with these guidelines, but may differ with institutional or personal opinions. It is worth looking at the NCCN guideline for your tumor type as you consider treatment opinions. www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp#cns