

# Key Questions to Ask Your Doctor



## Diagnosis



### TESTING

- What types of tests will be needed for a proper diagnosis?
- Where will I need to go for testing?
- What is the process for determining the pathology of my tumor?
- Will you test for mutations and methylation?

### SYMPTOMS

- Is there anything else that could be causing these symptoms?
- What should I be watching for to call for immediate help?
- What can you tell me about palliative care or other options to help manage my symptoms?

### TUMOR TYPE

- What is the name of my tumor type?
- What is the grade of my tumor?

- What is the location and size of my tumor?
- How many patients have you seen with this type of tumor?
- What mutations are present in my tumor?
- What were the results of the methylation analysis? Will these results affect my treatment plan?

### SECOND OPINION

- Who would you recommend for a second opinion?
- Should I consider visiting a National Cancer Institute Center of Excellence?
- Is there a specialist for this type of tumor in our region?
- Who are the top three clinical and research experts on this tumor type? Why?
- How do I obtain access to my medical records? Can I get copies or access my electronic file?  
*(This can help when you meet a new specialist or if you'd like another opinion.)*

## Diagnosis

### TREATMENT

- What are the standard guidelines to treat my tumor vs. what you recommend? Why?
- What are the risks and benefits of the standard treatment? What are the risks and benefits of the treatment you recommend (if different from standard treatment)?
- How will the results of genomic testing and methylation analysis affect my treatment plan?
- Do I qualify for any available clinical trials? Does that include trials outside of this institution?  
*(This is the only way to access some promising new treatments. You can also visit NBTS Clinical Trial Finder to search relevant clinical trials you might qualify for.)*
- What are novel treatments?
- What are the potential symptoms and side effects I will experience from treatment?
- What can I expect at the time of treatment, just after treatment, over the course of recovery, and in the long-term?

### SUPPORT

- Will I have access to social work support?
- Does your office or health system have an online portal that we can use for communication?
- Will there be enough time during appointments to talk through my questions or should I schedule an additional appointment to discuss them? Is it better to schedule a time with a nurse?
- How can I reach you if I have questions after today?
- How will we address mental health support throughout the stages of my diagnosis?
- How do I maintain a high quality of life over time?
- What is the potential impact on my insurance coverage and financial situation?

### NOTES

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