Key Questions to Ask Your Doctor

National Brain Tumor Society

Before Brain Tumor Surgery

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR HOSPITAL CARE TEAM

- How aggressive is my tumor's growth?
- What parts of my brain are currently affected by my tumor and what areas are at risk if my tumor continues to grow?
- What centers specialize in the type of tumor I have?
- Can a genetic study of my tumor tissue be conducted? Where can this be done?
- Will a member of my care team reach out to certain specialists on my behalf about my case?
- Is it safe to delay surgery to pursue a specialist?
- Are there clinical trials that I might qualify for that require specific surgical procedures?
- What clinical trials will no longer be available to me once surgery is performed?
- Should I prepare a living will, power of attorney and healthcare proxy? How do I go about doing this?
- Can I have a sample of my tumor tissue frozen for any future clinical trial or treatment opportunities?
- Can a sample of my tumor tissue be sent for research? What research programs would benefit from my tumor sample?

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QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CONSIDERING YOUR NEUROSURGEON

- How many surgeries have you performed on people with this tumor type and/or location?
- How will you protect against damage to the brain?
- Will I be awake or asleep during surgery? If I will be awake, can you explain that process? What are the risks and benefits?
- How will tumor location affect my outcome and your strategy?
- What are the risks and benefits of surgery for me?
- Will I experience different symptoms or cognitive problems after surgery?
- Where and how big will the incision be? Will you have to shave my head?
- How long will I be hospitalized after surgery?

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