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#### BrainTumor.org

# Key Questions to Ask Your Doctor

## Brain Tumor Recurrence

### **SECOND OPINION**

- Is it safe to delay treatment to pursue a second opinion regarding my <u>recurrence</u>?
- Who would you recommend for a second opinion?
- Should I consider visiting a <u>National Cancer</u> <u>Institute Designated Cancer Center</u>?
- Who are the top three clinical and research experts on recurrence for my tumor type?
- 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.)
- Would you be willing to work with another provider in a collaborative manner should I pursue a second opinion elsewhere?

### TREATMENT

- What are the treatment options for <u>brain</u> <u>tumor recurrence</u>, and are they different from the treatment for my original tumor?
- What are the risks and benefits of the <u>treatment options</u> you suggest?
- Are the treatment options suggested available at this center? If not, what center do you suggest I go to for treatment?



- Do I qualify for any available clinical trials and, if so, what are they testing? Does that include trials outside of this institution? (You can also visit the <u>NBTS Clinical Trial Finder</u> to search for clinical trials you might qualify for.)
- What are <u>novel treatments</u>, and are there any you would recommend for my specific case?
- Who on my care team will be responsible for my follow-up care?

### QUALITY OF LIFE

- What is <u>palliative care</u>?
- <u>What is the difference between palliative</u> and hospice care?
- Can we discuss a plan for quality of life and <u>palliative care</u>?
- Will I have access to social work support who can provide guidance and assistance?
- Are there any vitamins, nutritional recommendations, or complementary therapies you suggest to improve my quality of life and general health?
- What should I be watching for to call for immediate help?
- How will we address <u>mental health support</u> for me and my <u>caregiver</u>?

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## **Brain Tumor Recurrence**

- Can you suggest <u>support groups</u>, <u>financial</u> <u>assistance services</u>, and/or a cancer resource center in the area for me and my caregiver?
- Will I need long-term care services?
- How will <u>side effects</u> such as fatigue, hair loss, and headache be managed?
- Will I need rehabilitation services, like speech, physical, or cognitive therapy? Are there rehabilitation centers that focus on neurological recovery that you recommend?
- What if I don't meet my rehabilitative goals before my benefits run out?
- How do you recommend I keep track of how I feel, and what do you need to know?
- Does your health system offer spiritual support through a spiritual care advisor?
- Will I need long-term care service? Should I be planning financially for long-term medical care, such as a nursing home or <u>hospice</u>?
- Who can help me understand <u>Medicare</u> and my state's <u>Medicaid</u> rules for long-term care and my eligibility?

#### NOTES