

Questions for Your Doctor

What to bring to your first appointment

- Mammogram and ultrasound films (from the past three years)
- MRI disk
- List of medications
- Insurance card
- Photo ID
- Referral if your insurance requires one

Questions to ask your doctor before surgery

What type of breast cancer do I have?

What is my stage of disease?

Can you explain the pathology report results?

What are my treatment options?

What do you recommend and why?

If I need or choose mastectomy, am I a candidate for immediate reconstruction?

What tests will I need before my surgery?

What precautions will I need to take if lymph nodes are removed?

What can I expect for recovery?

Questions to ask the medical oncologist

What are my treatment options?

What do you recommend and why?

What is my prognosis?

What will the side effects of the treatment be?

Will I have long-term side effects from the treatments I receive?

If my lymph nodes are not involved, should chemotherapy or hormone therapy still be considered?

Will I need more tests or exams? If so, which tests and how often will they be needed?

What signs and symptoms should I tell you about?

Questions to ask the radiation oncologist

Why do you recommend radiation therapy?

How many treatments will I have?

How soon should treatment begin?

How many treatments will I have?

How is radiation given and how long does it take?

Which areas of my breast will receive radiation?

If I have breast reconstruction, can I still have radiation?

What can I do to prepare for my treatment (e.g., wear a two- piece outfit)?