Questions to Ask your Oncologist when You’ve been Diagnosed with Lung Cancer

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Regular communication with your doctor is important in making informed decisions about your health care. Consider asking the following questions of your Oncologist.

For All Patients with Lung Cancer

• What type of lung cancer do I have?
• What is the stage of my lung cancer?
• Do I need additional scans or biopsies in order to plan my treatment?
• What is the goal of treatment?
• Are there any other treatment options available to me?
• Who will be my Surgeon? My Radiation Oncologist? My Medical Oncologist?
• Does my Oncologist have Medical Residents who will be involved in my care?
• Who will be my Primary Care doctor?
• What role does my Family Doctor play in my care?

For Patients receiving chemotherapy

• What are the names of the chemo agents and how will they be given?
• Is there a cost for any of them?
• If so, how can I get help to pay for them?
• How many treatments are planned?
• How often and where will I receive them?
• Should someone accompany me to the treatments?
• What are the side effects of this chemotherapy?
• What can be done to minimize the side effects?
• Whom do I call and what should I do if I have a severe side effect?
• How and when will you know if the chemotherapy works?

For Patients Receiving Radiation Therapy

• How will my treatment be planned?
• What types of scans will be used?
• Where & how often will I receive radiation treatment?
• How much time will each treatment take?
• Should someone accompany me to the treatments?
• How much of the normal lung will be included in the radiation field?

• Will I receive radiation treatment to other parts of my body? If so, why?

• How and when will I know if the treatment works?

• Might I receive chemotherapy and radiation treatment at the same time?

• How and when will you know if the treatment works?

For Patients Considering a Clinical Trial

• How long has this clinical trial been in place? Is this a Phase I, II or III Clinical Trial?

• What is the goal of this clinical trial?

• What is expected of me if I agree to this trial? What is the benefit to me?

• What are the long and short term side effects of the clinical trial?

• What happens if I have a bad experience? What do I do and who do I call?

• Will I still have access to my regular Oncologist or will I be referred to other doctors?

For Patients who have completed their treatment

• Who is my primary Oncologist looking after my Lung Cancer?

• How often should I visit my Oncologist?

• What tests will I have during my follow-up?

• What are the chances my Lung Cancer will return? If it does, can I receive more treatment?

• Is there anything more I can do to reduce the chance that my cancer will return?

Questions to Ask your Family Physician

• Will you continue to be involved in my care? If so, how?

• Do you have much experience looking after people with my type of Lung Cancer?

• Should another doctor, other than the Oncologist, be involved in my care?

• Will you make house calls?

For more information:

Websites:
• Canadian Cancer Society: http://www.cancer.ca.
• CancerNet maintained by the American Society of Clinical Oncology: http://www.cancer.net/portal/site/patient

Lung Cancer Canada.
• 1896A Avenue Road. Toronto, Ontario. M5M 3Z8.
• Tel: 416-785-3439 (Toronto) • 1-888-445-4403 (Toll Free) • 416-785-2905 (fax)
• www.lungcancercanada.ca (website)
• info@lungcancercanada.ca (email)

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