

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Chemotherapy and Side Effects

Chemotherapy uses drugs to kill cancer cells. It can stop the growth of a tumor in the breast and kill cancer cells that have spread to other parts of the body. A few of the drugs are pills but most are given by vein through an IV. Chemotherapy may be given before or after surgery.

You may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation. More can be found [here](#).

Q: What were the estrogen receptor status and progesterone receptor status of my tumor? How do these affect my treatment plan?

A: _____

Q: Are there tumor profiling tests (like Oncotype DX®) that can be done on my tumor to help decide whether I should have chemotherapy?

A: _____

Q: Why do I need chemotherapy? When should I begin chemotherapy? Will I need other treatments?

A: _____

Q: Is there a clinical trial I am eligible to join?

A: _____

Q: What drugs will I take and why were those chosen for me?

A: _____

Q: How will the chemotherapy be given? Will I need a port-a-cath to make it easier to get chemotherapy through an IV into a vein? How many treatments will I have?

A: _____

Q: Where will the treatment take place? How long will each treatment take? Will I need someone to go with me?

A: _____

Q: What are the possible side effects? How long will they last? What are the long-term risks? Which side effects should I report to you?

A: _____

Q: Are there medicines I can take to prevent or treat side effects? Are there any complementary and integrative therapies that may help me cope with the side effects? Are there any I should avoid?

A: _____

Q: During treatment, will I be able to continue my normal activities (work, exercise, etc.)?

A: _____

Q: What out-of-pocket costs may I expect?

A: _____

Notes:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call the Komen Patient Care Center's Breast Care Helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or visit [komen.org](https://www.komen.org). Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice. Se habla español.

1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) [komen.org](https://www.komen.org)