

# QUESTIONS & TO ASK

## TIPS TO MAKE YOUR VISIT WITH THE PHYSICIAN A SUCCESS:

Bring this list of questions, a pen and paper to write down the answers. Also bring copies of your pathology report.

Bring a family member or member of Sisters Network® Inc. to accompany you for support.

Don't be afraid to tell your physician you don't understand the information shared with you regarding your treatment options.

## ASK QUESTIONS!

### SURGICAL ONCOLOGIST

- ✂ What can I expect with surgery?
- ✂ What type of surgery will I have? Mastectomy or lumpectomy?
- ✂ Sentinel Lymph Node Dissection-Is there information available on the procedure?
- ✂ What do you recommend for minimizing the risk of complications from surgery?
- ✂ Where will my surgery be done?
- ✂ What type of help or care will I need at home post-surgery?
- ✂ After my surgery, what kind of follow up care will I receive?
- ✂ Will I need radiation before or after the surgery?
- ✂ Can breast reconstruction be performed at the time of surgery or later?
- ✂ What type of test will I require prior to surgery?

### MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST

- ✂ What stage is my breast cancer?
- ✂ Am I node negative or node positive?
- ✂ How does my nodal status affect my risk for recurrence?
- ✂ Will I need systemic therapies (Chemotherapy, hormonal treatment, and novel targeted therapy) and which are appropriate for my stage of cancer?
- ✂ How will my systemic therapy be administered?
- ✂ What are the possible side effects of the systemic therapy that is appropriate for me?
- ✂ How does my menopausal status play a role in treatment?
- ✂ Are there any other medical issues I should know about that could affect my breast cancer treatment? (Pregnancy, premenopause, etc.)
- ✂ What type of test will I require prior to chemotherapy?

### RADIATION ONCOLOGIST

- ✂ Do I need radiation?
- ✂ How will my radiation be given? (What method will be used?)
- ✂ What do you recommend for managing the side effects of radiation therapy?
- ✂ After I finish radiation, what kind of follow-up care will I receive?
- ✂ How many treatments will I receive?
- ✂ Any long-term effects?

### PATHOLOGY REPORT (Tumor Testing)

- ✂ What kinds of tests will be done on my tumor?
- ✂ How will the test results affect my treatment options?
- ✂ Is my breast cancer hormone receptor positive (estrogen and/or progesterone receptor positive)? Will this affect my treatment options?
- ✂ Please explain my Pathology Report?

### CHEMOTHERAPY

- ✂ Do you recommend chemotherapy and why?
- ✂ What type of chemotherapy do you recommend and why?
- ✂ Are there any other chemotherapy options that may be right for me?
- ✂ How will the chemotherapy be given?
- ✂ How many chemotherapy treatments will I receive?
- ✂ What are the side effects of chemotherapy? Will these side effects last a long time?
- ✂ What do you recommend for managing the side effects of chemotherapy?
- ✂ After I finish chemotherapy, what kind of follow-up care will I receive?
- ✂ Any long-term effects?

### HORMONAL TREATMENT

- ✂ Do you recommend hormonal treatment and why?
- ✂ What type of hormonal treatment is best for me and why?
- ✂ Are there other hormonal treatment options that may be right for me?
- ✂ When will I start the hormonal treatment and how long will I need to take the hormonal treatment?
- ✂ How will the hormonal treatment be given?
- ✂ What are the side effects of hormonal treatment? Will these side effects last a long time?
- ✂ What do you recommend for managing the side effects of hormonal therapy?
- ✂ Will I need follow-up care after hormonal treatment? For how long?



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