

After A Breast Cancer Diagnosis: Questions To Ask Your Doctor

A diagnosis of breast cancer can be overwhelming. This fact sheet will tell you:

- How to prepare for your appointments
- What the impact of your hormone receptor status might be
- What questions will help you learn more about your diagnosis



The Importance of Communicating With Your Health Care Team

Your team of doctors, nurses and social workers are there to help. Here are some tips for your appointments.

- **Bring a list of questions.** This will help you remember important things to ask. Write down or record the responses so that you do not forget them.
- **Consider bringing a loved one with you.** A friend or a family member can help ask questions and provide emotional support.
- Ask questions about costs. Knowing how much your treatment and medications might cost can help you plan ahead and focus more attention on getting better.

If your doctors and nurses do not know every answer, they may be able to guide you to those who do.



What is My Hormone Receptor Status?

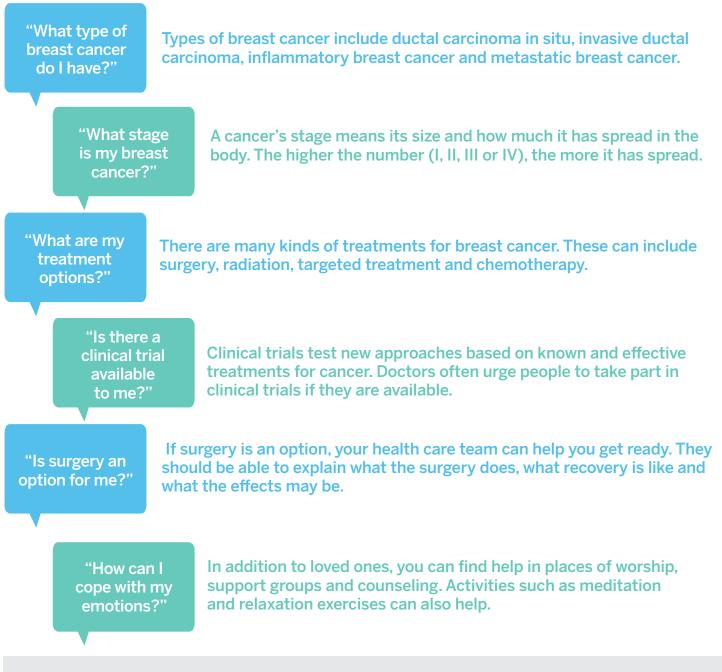
Some breast tumors grow faster because of the hormone estrogen. Tumors take in estrogen through structures on the surfaces of their cells. These are called estrogen or progesterone receptors.

Tumor cells that have many of these receptors on their surfaces are said to be estrogen- or progesterone-receptor positive. These tumors are often successfully treated with hormonal therapy.



Questions That You May Want to Ask Your Health Care Team

The following questions should help you learn key information about your diagnosis and situation.



CancerCare® Can Help

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