

CANCER EXPLAINED PRESENTS

QUESTIONS TO BRING

FIRST QUESTIONS AFTER A DIAGNOSIS

A short list to bring to the first appointment, in plain language

FREE TO PRINT · PLAIN LANGUAGE · SOURCES ON THE BACK

A CANCER EXPLAINED HANDOUT · BASED ON **NCI** · UPDATED **2026-07-14**

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First Questions After a Diagnosis

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1 Understanding the diagnosis

- ? What kind of cancer is it, and where is it in my body?
- ? Do you know the stage, or are we still waiting on tests?
- ? Can you write down the exact name so I can read about it later?

2 About treatment

- ? What are my treatment choices, and what is the goal of each?
- ? How soon do I need to decide, and what happens if I wait?
- ? What side effects are common, and how are they managed?
- ? Is a clinical trial an option for me?

3 About daily life and support

- ? Who is my main contact, and how do I reach them with questions?
- ? What help is there with costs, rides, or time off work?
- ? Can I bring someone with me to appointments?

THE BOTTOM LINE

You do not have to understand everything at once. Ask for anything in writing, and bring someone with you to listen and take notes.

This resource is provided by:

Sources: NCI: Questions to ask your doctor about your diagnosis (cancer.gov/about-cancer/diagnosis-staging/questions)

Learn more in plain language: cancerexplained.org/just-diagnosed · **Updated:** 2026-07-14

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