

QUESTIONS TO ASK A MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST

For the patient: You should review these questions and determine if the answers would satisfy a better understanding of what to expect and ease your concerns. If there are other questions you have, or questions here you do not need answers, you can either add to or delete from this list. Then print out a copy of this list to take to your Medical Oncologist and ask that he/she take later time but before a future visit to address each question and either mail or email you the answers. At normal appointments there is only limited time and these questions are quite comprehensive and will require more time for the Medical Oncologist to address.

- a) I have several questions to ask you that are very important to me and I would hope you will give me the time to address each of those questions. I made a copy for you, and if you prefer, I am willing to leave the questions for you to answer and return to me either by mail or email. Would that be your preference or can I ask them now? If you will be mailing or emailing me the answers, you may be providing me some answers today, but I would still appreciate answering them again with a mail or email return of the questions I am providing you.
- b) Will my health insurance cover all your planned treatment, recognizing that if I don't have supplemental insurance, I may be responsible for a co-pay?
- c) Can you explain as well provide me a written copy so I can be aware as to what you currently plan as my treatment?
- d) Do you plan any imaging, and if so, why?

- e) If imaging determines I am experiencing osteopenia or osteoporosis and you plan on prescribing a bisphosphonate, I want to be forewarned to have dental work completed ahead of time, since I am aware a bisphosphonate can eventually have an effect on my jawbone.

- f) What types of medications do you plan to prescribe, and could you explain each medication and what that medication is expected to perform, as well as the success from this protocol in the past?

- g) What side effects can I expect from any such medications?

- h) Can I expect to have a period of erectile dysfunction, and if so, for how long and what can we do to help to rehabilitate my penis to prevent atrophy as well as gain a return to an erection – I am aware that a vacuum erection device can exercise my penis but not really rehabilitate it, so which medications do you recommend to both help an erection as well as get arterial blood and oxygenation to my penis – Viagra? Or Levitra? Or Cialis? And if Levitra, do you prescribe Staxyn, the type that melts under the tongue? And how long do I wait if these medications aren't helping before considering penile injections with papaverin or bimix or trimix? Also, (if married) do you have someone on your staff that can provide counsel to my wife/partner and I together regarding erectile dysfunction in order that we both have a better idea of what to anticipate so that neither of us are surprised by this possible side effect of treatment on my being unable to attain an erection for sexual intercourse?

- i) How long before we should expect to determine if the prescribed medications are being effective?

- j) What type of diagnostics/testing do you plan to determine if the medications are being effective?
- k) How often will you be having these diagnostics done, as well as how often will I be seeing you to discuss the diagnostic results?
- l) If the medications prescribed fail to do what they are expected to do, I would like to know ahead of time what next testing or new medications are to be prescribed and what these new medications are expected to perform that the earlier medications failed to do. Of course, I would want to be advised of the side effects I might expect from these new drugs and what can be prescribed or done to alleviate or at least ease those side effects.

Do you know of a local prostate cancer support group I could go to in order to be among other men who have been or are being treated for this disease?