

# Questions to Ask your Oncologist when You've been Diagnosed with Lung Cancer

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Regular communication with your doctor is important in making informed decisions about your health care. Consider asking the following questions of your Oncologist.

### For All Patients with Lung Cancer

- •What type of lung cancer do I have?
- ·What is the stage of my lung cancer?
- •Do I need additional scans or biopsies in order to plan my treatment?
- •What is the goal of treatment?
- •Are there any other treatment options available to me?
- •Who will be my Surgeon? My Radiation Oncologist? My Medical Oncologist?
- •Does my Oncologist have Medical Residents who will be involved in my care?
- •Who will be my Primary Care doctor?
- •What role does my Family Doctor play in my care?

### For Patients receiving chemotherapy

- •What are the names of the chemo agents and how will they be given?
- ·Is there a cost for any of them?
- •If so, how can I get help to pay for them?
- ·How many treatments are planned?
- ·How often and where will I receive them?



- •Should someone accompany me to the treatments?
- •What are the side effects of this chemotherapy?
- •What can be done to minimize the side effects?
- •Whom do I call and what should I do if I have a severe side effect?
- •How and when will you know if the chemotherapy works?

### For Patients Receiving Radiation Therapy

- ·How will my treatment be planned?
- ·What types of scans will be used?
- •Where & how often will I receive radiation treatment?
- ·How much time will each treatment take?
- •Should someone accompany me to the treatments?

## Info Sheet

- •How much of the normal lung will be included in the radiation field?
- •Will I receive radiation treatment to other parts of my body? If so, why?
- •How and when will I know if the treatment works?
- •Might I receive chemotherapy and radiation treatment at the same time?
- •How and when will you know if the treatment works?

### For Patients Considering a Clinical Trial

- •How long has this clinical trial been in place? Is this a Phase I, II or III Clinical Trial?
- ·What is the goal of this clinical trial?
- •What is expected of me if I agree to this trial? What is the benefit to me?
- •What are the long and short term side effects of the clinical trial?
- •What happens if I have a bad experience? What do I do and who do I call?
- Will I still have access to my regular Oncologist or will I be referred to other doctors?

### For Patients Considering a Clinical Trial (Continued)

- •What are my options for standard treatment?
- •What other Clinical Trials are available to me?

### For Patients who have completed their treatment

- •Who is my primary Oncologist looking after my Lung Cancer?
- ·How often should I visit my Oncologist?
- ·What tests will I have during my follow-up?
- •What are the chances my Lung Cancer will return? If it does, can I receive more treatment?
- Is there anything more I can do to reduce the chance that my cancer will return?

### **Questions to Ask your Family Physician**

- •Will you continue to be involved in my care? If so, how?
- •Do you have much experience looking after people with my type of Lung Cancer?
- •Should another doctor, other than the Oncologist, be involved in my care?
- ·Will you make house calls?

### For more information:

### Websites:

- ·Canadian Cancer Society: http://www.cancer.ca.
- •CancerNet maintained by the American Society of Clinical Oncology: http://www.cancer.net/portal/site/patient

### Lung Cancer Canada.

- •1896A Avenue Road. Toronto, Ontario. M5M 3Z8•
- •Tel: 416-785-3439 (Toronto) •1-888-445-4403 (Toll Free) 416-785-2905 (fax)
- ·www.lungcancercanada.ca (website)
- ·info@lungcancercanada.ca (email)

#### Disclaimer:

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