



Important Questions For Making Treatment Decisions

- Is the goal of this treatment to cure, prolong life or relieve symptoms?
- What is the best I can hope for with this treatment?
- What is the worst I should prepare for if this doesn't work?
- Is this a standard treatment or experimental? What are the chances for success in my particular case?
- How and when will I know it's working?
- How will this impact my daily living, comfort and/or goals? What are the physical changes I may experience and how will you help me manage them?
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- If I have side effects, how long might they last? What can be done to prevent or minimize them?
- Are there any potentially permanent side effects?
- Is this covered under my insurance? What will the cost be to me?
- Will I need extra help to manage at home, and if so, for how long?
- If I refuse this treatment, what can I expect to happen?
- If I refuse this treatment, will you still be my doctor?
- Is there a counselor, support group or someone I can talk to about this?
- Do you have material about this treatment that I can take home and review?
- Are there other ways to manage my disease and would you recommend them? Why or why not?

Although medicine doesn't have a crystal ball to know how you are going to respond to a particular treatment, it is important that you have enough information so you can make a decision. Consider your lifestyle, your beliefs, your goals and values. Consider your family, finances and spiritual beliefs. You always have the right to know, to choose, and to change your mind.