

# Questions to Ask your Healthcare Team



braintumour  
foundation  
OF CANADA

Knowing what questions to ask at your healthcare appointments is important for your continued care and wellbeing. The following questions are meant to guide you and your family in discussion with your medical team. You are also encouraged to ask additional questions that are important to you.

## General Questions:

- What is the name of the brain tumour I have been diagnosed with?
- What is the grade of the tumour? What does this mean?
- Can you explain the pathology report (i.e. laboratory test results) to us?
- Who will be part of our healthcare team? What does each member do?
- Where can I access a second opinion?

## Radiation Therapy:

- What type of treatment is recommended?
- What is the goal of this treatment and how long will it take??
- What side effects can we expect during treatment, and who should we contact if we are concerned?
- What are the possible long-term side-effects of having this treatment, and what can be done to relieve them?

## Planning Follow-up Care:

- What are the chances that the tumour will come back? Should we watch for specific signs or symptoms?
- What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the treatment received?
- What follow-up tests will be required after treatment, and how often?

## Treatment:

- What treatment plan would you recommend and why?
- What are the possible side effects of each treatment, both short-term and long-term?
- How does this treatment affect someone's daily life?
- Are there currently any clinical trials for this type of brain tumour?
- How long will treatment take to complete?

## Surgery:

- What type of surgery do you recommend?
- How long will the surgery take?
- What is the average recovery time for this surgery, and what will recovery look like?
- What are the possible long-term side-effects of having this surgery, and what can be done to relieve them?

- Who will be leading the follow-up care?
- How do we get a treatment summary and survivorship care plan for our personal records?
- What survivorship support services are available to me?

## Here's a Tip!

*Having open communication with your neuroscience medical team is important in making informed decisions about health care options. It is not uncommon to feel nervous or only hear part of what is said at a doctor's appointment. It can be beneficial to ask a family member or friend to attend appointments with you so that they can take notes.*



For more  
information:

BrainTumour.ca

