

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR/MEDICAL TEAM

If you are meeting with a surgeon or oncologist for the first time, do not be afraid to ask:

- Have you ever treated a pancreatic cancer patient before?
- If this is a surgeon, how many surgeries have you performed on pancreatic cancer patients?
- What has the general outcome of those patients been?
- Where were you trained? (medical school, residency)

Important questions to ask your doctor:

- What is the diagnosis?
- What treatments are recommended?
- Are there other treatment options available that you do not provide? (i.e., protocol treatments, herbal therapy, touch therapy, other alternative therapies)
- What are the benefits of each treatment?
- What are the side effects of each treatment?
- What are the medications being prescribed? What are they for? What are their side effects?
- Are there any clinical drug trials I can participate in?
- How should I expect to feel during the treatment(s)?
- What are the risks of the treatment(s)?
- Will my diet need to be changed or modified?
- Will I need to take enzymes, vitamins, etc.?

Do not forget to ask about other things that may be important to you:

- How will pancreatic cancer affect my quality of life?
- How will pancreatic cancer affect my ability to work?
- Can my treatment be done as an outpatient so that I can spend more time at home and with family?
- Will I have any physical limitations? What will they be?
- How will my current lifestyle be changed?

Finally—and most importantly—ask these questions of YOURSELF:

- Does my doctor appear interested in answering my questions?
- Or, does my doctor look annoyed when I ask questions, like I'm doubting their expertise, or I am holding them up?
- Do I feel that my doctor cares about my medical outcome?

If you are uncomfortable with the results of some of these questions, you may want to re-evaluate your choice of physician or get a second opinion.