

Helpful Questions to Consider Asking About Palliative Chemotherapy

Treatment

- What is my chance of cure?
- What is the chance that this chemotherapy will make my cancer shrink? Stay stable? Grow?
- If I cannot be cured, will I live longer with chemotherapy? How much longer?
- What are the main side effects of the chemotherapy?
- Will I feel better or worse?
- Are there other options, such as hospice or palliative care?

- How do other people make these decisions?
- Are there clinical trials available?
 - What are the benefits?
 - Am I eligible?
 - What is needed to enroll?

Prognosis

- What are the likely things that will happen to me?
- How long will I live? (Ask for a range, and the most likely scenario for the period ahead, and when death might be expected.)
- Are there other things I should be doing?

Will?

- Advance directives?
- Durable power of attorney for health care who can speak for me, if I am unable?
- Financial or family legal issues?
- Durable power of attorney for financial affairs?
- Trust?
- Family issues
 - Will you help me talk with my children?

Spiritual and psychological issues

- Who is available to help me cope with this situation?
- Legacy and life review
 - What do I want to pass on to my family to tell them about my life?
- Other concerns?