

The National Cancer Institute offers the following questions to consider asking your doctor, to help guide you through treatment, surgery and chemotherapy.

Questions to ask your doctor early in treatment:

- What is the stage of my disease? Has the cancer spread from the ovaries? If so, to where?
- What are my treatment choices? Do you recommend intraperitoneal chemotherapy for me? Why or why not?
- Would a clinical trial be appropriate for me?
- Will I need more than one kind of treatment?
- What are the expected benefits of each kind of treatment?
- What are the risks and possible side effects of each treatment? What can we do to control side effects? Will they go away after treatment ends?
- What can I do to prepare for treatment?
- How long will I need to stay in the hospital? Can I get chemotherapy at my local hospital since it is too far to drive to a major medical center?
- What is the treatment likely to cost? Will my insurance cover the cost?
- How will treatment affect my normal activities?
- Will treatment cause me to go through early menopause?
- Will I be able to get pregnant and have children after treatment?
- How often should I have checkups after treatment?

Questions to ask your doctor regarding surgery:

- What kind of surgery do you recommend for me? Will lymph nodes and other tissues be removed? Why?
- How soon will I know the results of the pathology report? Who will explain them to me?
- How will I feel after surgery?
- If I have pain, how will it be controlled?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- What are some of the possible long-term effects of the surgery?
- How might the surgery affect my sex life?
- How much will the surgery cost? Will my health insurance cover it?

Questions to ask your doctor before starting chemotherapy:

- When will treatment start? When will it end? How often will I have treatment?
- Which drugs will I have?
- How do the drugs work?
- Do you recommend intravenous and intraperitoneal chemotherapy for me? Why?
- What are the expected benefits of treatment?
- What are the risks of treatment? What side effects might I have?
- How can I prevent or treat these side effects?
- How much will chemotherapy cost? Will my health insurance pay for all of the treatment?