Patient Empowerment Network

5 Things to know about

Starting your kidney cancer journey

A kidney cancer diagnosis can feel overwhelming, but learning about your diagnosis and treatment options can help you feel more prepared and confident. Here are five things to know as you begin your kidney cancer journey:

1 Learn about your diagnosis

Kidney cancer can have different types and stages. Ask your healthcare team questions about your diagnosis, test results, and what they may mean for your treatment plan.



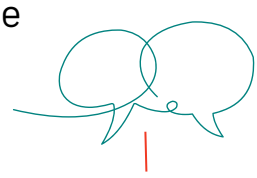
2 Understand your treatment options

Treatment options may include surgery, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, active surveillance, or clinical trials. Learning about your options can help you take part in care decisions.



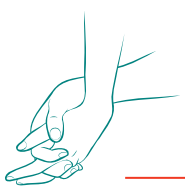
3 Prepare questions for appointments

Writing down questions before appointments can help you remember important topics to discuss with your healthcare team. Bringing notes or a care partner may also help.



4 Track symptoms and side effects

Keeping track of symptoms, side effects, and changes in how you feel can help your healthcare team better support your care and manage symptoms early.



5 Support is available

Patient navigators, support groups, care partners, and advocacy organizations can help you feel supported throughout your kidney cancer journey. You do not have to face cancer alone.

