Understanding Your Treatment Plan | Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- What are my standard-of-care treatment options?
- Is there a clinical trial that may be right for me?
- Are there radiation therapy or surgical options?
- Are there chemotherapy-sparing options?
- How is the treatment administered, and where will I receive the therapy?
- Who should I call if something happens on the weekend or on a holiday?

Clinical Trial Phases

**Phase I**: The goal is to test the safety of the drug, finding the appropriate dose that produces the fewest side effects.

**Phase II**: Further assesses the safety of the drug and the effectiveness of the treatment.

**Phase III**: Compares the efficacy of the new treatment to the standard-of-care treatment.

**Phase IV**: Study that looks at drugs that have already been approved to get additional safety information and to learn more about long-term benefits and side effects.

Understanding Clinical Trial Terminology

**Placebos** are rarely used in cancer clinical trials. But when a patient receives a placebo, they will also receive the standard of care treatment for their type of cancer. A standard of care treatment has consensus among experts as the most appropriate and/or effective treatment for a specific type and stage of cancer. Learn more about Placebos in Cancer Clinical Trials at cancer.net.

Glossary

**Biomarker Testing (molecular testing)**: Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

**BRCA 1, BRCA 2**: Inherited mutated genes linked to hereditary prostate cancer.

**Germline Mutations**: A hereditary mutation, passed directly from a parent to a child at the time of conception. Cancer caused by germline mutations is called inherited cancer and accounts for about 5% to 20% of all cancers.

**Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR) Pathway**: A pathway that is frequently mutated in men with advanced prostate cancer.

**Immunotherapy**: Type of therapy that harnesses one’s own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

**PARP Inhibitors**: A type of targeted treatment that inhibits the enzyme poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase.

**PSMA PET Scan**: An imaging test that is used to detect prostate cancer anywhere in the body.

**Somatic Mutation**: Mutations that can occur in any of the cells of the body but are not hereditary. These mutations may, in some cases, cause cancer or other diseases.