



Important Questions to Ask Your Doctor after a Myeloma Diagnosis

When confronted with a diagnosis of myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow plasma cells, many questions can arise. It is best to consult with a myeloma specialist who can give you guidance while you learn about treatment options.

Getting Started

- What type of myeloma do I have?
- What stage of myeloma do I have?
- What is my chance of responding to treatment?
- What is the length of survival for myeloma?
- Is there a cure?
- Are there factors in my case which are good or bad?
- What tests do I need to have performed before we can decide on treatment?

Treatment Planning

- What are my treatment options? Are some more toxic than others?
- How are the treatments administered (intravenously, by shot, or by mouth)?
- Will I be able to continue my normal life, work, etc.?
- If I am taking other medications, vitamins, or supplements, can they interfere with myeloma treatments?
- Will side effects from treatment affect my ability to perform work or daily activities?

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- How can I reduce side effects from a particular treatment?
- How do I know if the treatment is working?
- What are my options if the chosen treatment doesn't seem to be working?
- Is high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue (also called "autologous stem cell transplant") recommended for me? If so, how will that affect my treatment planning?
- Should I consider a clinical trial or stick with FDA-approved treatments?

Financial Considerations

- Which part of my treatment will be covered by my insurer?
- How can I find the best insurance coverage for my treatments?
- What will my financial responsibility be?
- Are there financial resources to help me pay for my treatment?

Support Services

- What support services are available to me?
- Are there support groups in my area for myeloma patients, caregivers, and family?
- Where can I find the best information about myeloma?

The IMF urges you to discuss all medical issues with your doctor and to contact the IMF's InfoLine with your myeloma concerns.



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