

THE THREE QUESTIONS PROJECT

The '3 Questions' project is concerned to develop questions that patients should be encouraged to ask of their clinical team at points along their care pathway. This has come out of the DH's 'Improving Outcomes for Cancer Strategy (IOSC) Advisory Group'.

The 3 questions project

- The thinking behind this was to find ways in which patients could help driving up standards of care by seeking information
- That more knowledge empowers patients
- That asking questions might also prompt clinicians into thinking about management options that they might otherwise not have considered or offered eg treatments out of the network.

At melanoma diagnosis

- What is the AJCC stage of my cancer and
- Would a sentinel node biopsy help me?
- Who is my keyworker (best contact if I have any questions or difficulties about the melanoma after I leave today)
- Is my family also at risk of melanoma and what can we do to reduce that risk?

After surgery for the primary

- What does “stage “ mean and what is the AJCC stage of my cancer now?
- Has my case been discussed by the Melanoma Multidisciplinary Team and which medical specialties were there?
- Do I need any chemotherapy or radiotherapy now?

At or after recurrence

- What is the AJCC stage of the melanoma now?
- Can all the cancer be removed by surgery? If not what options do I have?
- Are there any investigation or treatment options that your service cannot provide and if not, what evidence is there of their value and can I be referred elsewhere?

Stage 4 melanoma

- Do I have a *BRAF*, *NRAS* or *c-kit* mutation in my tumour as I know that the presence of these mutations means that I might be able to access treatments with new “targeted” therapies?
- Has my case been discussed by the Melanoma Multidisciplinary Team and which medical specialties were there?

3 QUESTIONS FOR PATIENTS WITH BCC OR SCC

At diagnosis

- Has the cancer been adequately removed?
What was the margin of normal skin removed from around the cancer?
- Am I or my family at increased risk of other cancers like this and what can we do to reduce the chance?

At recurrence

- What AJCC stage is my cancer now and where are the cancer cells?
- Can this be treated with surgery and if so what side effects will it leave?
- Why has the cancer come back and is there anything that can be done to reduce the risk of it coming back again now?

Questions for skin lymphoma patients

- What type of cutaneous lymphoma have I got?
- What is the risk of the cutaneous lymphoma spreading internally?
- What is my stage?
- What is the chance of treatment being curative?
- What treatment options are available?