



Ovarian Cancer Questions To Ask

Date: _____

Name: _____

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- What is a tumor?
 - How do benign and malignant tumors differ?
 - What is a borderline tumor? Is it ovarian cancer or isn't it?
 - What does it mean to have ovarian cancer?
 - What are the risk factors for ovarian cancer?
 - Is hormone replacement therapy associated with ovarian cancer?
 - What are the symptoms of ovarian cancer?
 - What tests are used to diagnose ovarian cancer?
 - How is a cancer diagnosis determined from these tests?
 - What is the CA-125 test and what is its purpose?
 - What is the grade of a cancer? Is it the same thing as the "stage"?
 - What is my prognosis? How is it determined?
 - How does ovarian cancer spread? Does it usually spread to particular locations?
 - What are the treatment options?
 - How do I decide where I should receive treatment?
 - Who is involved in my treatment?
 - How will I know if I need surgery? What are the surgical options?
 - Who should do my surgery?
 - Do I have to have both ovaries removed if I am diagnosed with ovarian cancer?
 - Does everyone with ovarian cancer need chemotherapy?
 - What kind of chemotherapy is used to treat ovarian cancer?
 - What is neoadjuvant treatment?
 - When do germ-cell tumors require chemotherapy?
 - Is chemotherapy ever recommended for borderline tumors?
 - Are any tumor markers associated with these non-epithelial types of ovarian tumors?
 - What happens if the CA-125 result isn't normal during chemotherapy?
Does radiation play a role?
 - What is second-look surgery?
 - What is intraperitoneal chemotherapy?
 - What does consolidation mean?
 - What is a vaccine?
 - When should I consider a clinical trial?
 - Does treatment differ if I'm pregnant when diagnosed with ovarian cancer?
 - Is there any role for complementary or alternative therapy?
 - Will the CA-125 reading ever go down to zero?
 - How often should I be examined?
 - Do I need CT scans every three months?
 - When can I consider myself cured?

- Do I still need yearly mammograms?
- Should I take special precautions while on chemotherapy?
- Can I take hormones for hot flashes?
- Should I avoid certain foods while on chemotherapy?
- Will I be able to tolerate treatment as I get older?
- Should I be taking any special vitamins?
- Can I work while receiving treatment?
- Is depression common after treatment?
- When will my hair grow back?
- Will I enjoy my own life again?
- How do I manage my emotions?
- What do I tell my family?
- What insurance and financial concerns must I address after my diagnosis?
- What symptoms occur when ovarian cancer progresses?
- What should I do if I have severe abdominal pain?
- What can I do for constipation?
- How do I manage my pain?
- How is ascites treated? What about pleural effusions?
- How can my ovarian cancer come back if my ovaries have already been removed?
- What happens if the cancer comes back?
- What do I do if the CA-125 reading starts to rise again?
- If the cancer comes back, can I still be cured?
- Will I still need surgery?
- Do hormones have a role in treating cancer?
- Are treatments available if my cancer comes back?
- Can I live with ovarian cancer after it has recurred?
- If I can't be cured, why should I undergo chemotherapy for recurrent disease?
- Will I be receiving chemotherapy for the rest of my life?
- If my cancer goes into remission, what can I do to increase my chances that it won't come back again?
- How long will I live now that my cancer has recurred?
- If treatment fails, does intravenous feeding play a role?
- What is hospice?
- What are the end stages of ovarian cancer like?
- How do I know when it is time to stop treatment?
- What is a DNR order?
- What is a health care proxy?
- Can I protect myself from getting ovarian cancer?
- Can I get ovarian cancer if I've had my ovaries removed?
- Can ovarian cancer be inherited?
- Will fertility drugs increase my risk of ovarian cancer?
- Should I have genetic counseling? How do you determine who should go for genetic testing?
- Is there any way to screen for ovarian cancer?
- What kind of research is being carried on to cure this cancer?
- Where can I get support?
- Where can I get more information?

