

Being Diagnosed

Questions & Answers

It is important, as part of your conversation with your physician, that you get specific information, including:

- An understanding of how the illness may affect your day to day functioning and life
- Your treatment options and what to expect from the treatment
- What potential side effects from the treatment may occur and when
- What symptoms may occur from the illness and when
- Your prognosis with or without treatment

Questions & Answers:

I have not received a diagnosis yet and my doctor is still doing tests. I have terrible pain and dizziness. What do I do?

It is always best to be in touch with your primary care provider or specialist regarding new or persistent symptoms. The management of symptoms can be addressed even when a diagnosis is not confirmed.

My doctor tells me the tumor will shrink after the chemotherapy treatment, but I am very tired and have nausea and vomiting which stops me from going to work. When will the chemotherapy make me feel better?

The symptoms you are describing may be from the tumor, the treatment or both. It is important to discuss with your oncologist and primary care doctor the experience of nausea, vomiting and fatigue, as there are options to manage these symptoms. Working while receiving chemotherapy or other forms of treatment for cancer will affect each person differently. The better controlled your symptoms are, the more likely that you will be able to engage in work or leisure activities.