

Patient information from BMJ

Last published: Feb 06, 2025

Testicular cancer: questions to ask your doctor

If you've been diagnosed with testicular cancer, you might have many questions. Here are some questions you might want to take with you to your appointment and discuss with your doctor or specialist:

- What is testicular cancer?
- Why have I got this cancer? Does it run in families?
- Are you sure it's cancer? Do I need some more tests?
- How advanced is my cancer? What stage is it?
- What kind of cancer cells are in the tumor? Will this affect the treatment I need?
- Will I need an operation to remove the affected testicle?
- What will happen during the operation?
- If I have the affected testicle removed, will I be able to have an implant to replace it? Will it feel the same as a real testicle?
- Is there a chance I could need both testicles removed?
- Will I need surgery on any other part of my body? For example, will my lymph nodes be removed?
- How long will I need to spend in the hospital?
- How long will it take me to recover from the operation? Can I go back to normal life right away?
- Will I need chemotherapy or radiation therapy after my surgery?
- Will I need to stay in the hospital for chemotherapy or radiation therapy? Or can I go home after each session?
- Will surgery affect my sex life? What about other treatments?
- Will my treatment affect whether I can have children?
- Can I have my sperm frozen before I start treatment?
- Could my cancer come back in my other testicle or somewhere else in my body?

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- Should I examine my remaining testicle regularly in case the cancer comes back there? If so, how should I do this and how often?
- Will I need to have regular follow-ups?
- Is there anywhere else I can go for support?

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