questions to ask your doctor

**Diagnosis Questions**

What information do you hope to gain from the biopsy?
What is the likelihood that the biopsy will establish a diagnosis?
Can the diagnosis be established by any other methods?
Who will explain the results of the biopsy to me?
How long will I wait until a result is available?
How will I be informed about the result of the biopsy?

**Treatment Questions**

How is the biopsy done?
Is the procedure painful?
Is a local or general anesthetic involved?
How safe is the biopsy procedure?
Can the biopsy be performed in your office or must the procedure be done in a hospital?
Will you be removing the entire lesion or a part of the lesion? Why?
How many samples will be removed?
How large is the tissue fragment to be removed?
How long will the procedure take?
Can I go about my normal daily activities afterward?

**Side Effect Questions**

Will I have pain or scarring afterward?
Will I need stitches?
How do I take care of the biopsy site?
What should I do if I think I have an infection?
What does an infection at a biopsy site look like?
Are there any complications that might arise as a result of the biopsy procedure?
If complications develop, what should I do or whom should I contact?