

questions to ask your doctor



I. Diagnosis Questions

How was it determined that I have Stage III melanoma?
How many of my lymph nodes have melanoma?
Do I have in-transit metastases?
Was my melanoma completely resected (removed)?

II. Treatment Questions

Do you recommend a complete lymph node dissection (CLND)?
If yes, how much experience do you have doing a CLND?
What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
Should I consider adjuvant immunotherapy or targeted therapy?
What are the side effects of these treatments?
What is my prognosis?
What type of follow-up will I need?
Will the treatments affect my ability to work?
Do I need radiation therapy?
Can I use complementary or alternative therapies?
Why or why not?
Do I need regular scans?
Do I need a brain scan?
Should I get a second opinion?
Was I tested for the BRAF mutation?
Should I be tested for the NRAS or C-KIT mutation?
Should I consider enrolling in a clinical trial?
Are you involved in clinical trials?
If not, should I be referred to a center that has clinical trials?

III. 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?

IV. Additional Questions

Do I need regular scans?
Do I need a brain scan?
How often should I go for a skin exam?
What can I do to reduce my risk of developing another melanoma?
What is the risk of my family members developing melanoma?