questions to ask your doctor

I. Diagnosis Questions

- How was it determined that I have Stage IV melanoma?
- Where has my melanoma spread?
- Has it spread to my brain?
- Will I need additional tests or procedures to confirm the stage of my disease?

II. Treatment Questions

- Was I tested for the BRAF mutation?
- Should I be tested for the NRAS or C-KIT mutation?
- What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- Should I consider immunotherapy, targeted therapy, or chemotherapy to treat my melanoma? Why?
- What are the possible side effects of these treatments?
- Will the treatments affect my ability to work?
- Do I need radiation therapy?
- Can I use complementary or alternative therapies? Why or why not?
- What is my prognosis?
- What type of follow-up will I need?
- Do I need regular scans?
- Do I need a brain scan?
- Should I get a second opinion?

III. Clinical Trial Questions

- What are clinical trials?
- Should I consider enrolling in a clinical trial?
- Why or why not?
- Are you involved in any clinical trials?
- Should I be referred to a center that has clinical trials?

IV. Additional Questions

- How often should I go for a skin exam?
- What can I do to reduce my risks of developing another melanoma?
- What is the risk of my family members developing melanoma?