

Talking with Your Doctor

Below are questions that patients tend to ask their doctors when discussing their colorectal cancer surgery and/or treatment. More questions can be found at www.diagnocurelabs.com, and space is provided below for you to add your own questions.

For the Surgeon: Before Surgery

- What do you know about my cancer? Where exactly is it located? Has it spread?
- What happens during the surgery? What part of my colon (or rectum) will you take out?
- Will I have normal bowel movements after my surgery?
- Will I need assistance when I go home from the hospital?
- Will I be cured after the surgery, or will I need chemotherapy and/or radiation? When/how will I know if further treatment is required?
- I've heard it is important to have at least 12 lymph nodes removed and sampled to help determine the stage of my cancer. Will this be done for me?

For the Surgeon: After Surgery

- Were you able to remove the entire tumor? How large was it?
- What does the pathology report say about my cancer? What is its stage and my risk of recurrence?
- What are my chances of recovering and living a normal life?

For the Oncologist after Surgery

- What treatments do you recommend?
 - What are the benefits of the treatment? How much does it reduce the risk of recurrence?
 - What are the risks and side effects of this treatment in the short term and the long term?
 - How long will I have to undergo treatment?
 - How will we know if the treatment is working?
- How will we know if I develop disease recurrence?
- Who can answer my questions after this appointment and how do I reach them?

For the Oncologist if You Have No Cancer Cells in Your Lymph Nodes

- I understand studies have shown that up to 30% of patients with no cancer cell clusters in their lymph nodes have disease recurrence. What is my risk of being one of them?
- I have heard of a new molecular test, Previstage™ GCC, that can better identify the presence of cancer metastases in my lymph nodes. Can we test my lymph nodes? *Bring the [Information for my doctor sheet in case your doctor doesn't know the test](#) (at www.mypersonalcancerdiagnosis.com/talking-with-your-doctor.php).*

Add your own questions:
