Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Cancer
Saint Louis University Cancer Center
Division of Geriatric Medicine

Take a friend with you. Write the answers down or circle the answer.

1. What kind of cancer is it? ______________________________________________________

2. Is it a fast- or slow-growing cancer?  FAST  SLOW  DON’T KNOW

3. Has it spread beyond where it started?  YES  NO  DON’T KNOW

4. What kind of therapies are available?  
   - Surgery
   - Radiation
   - Chemotherapy
   - Combination

5. Where can I get printed material on each treatment? _____________________________

6. How much longer can I expect to live with this cancer? ___________________________

7. What percentage of people are alive at 5 years after diagnosis? ____________________

8. How much longer will I live with therapy versus no therapy? _______________________

9. Do I need to go into the hospital for therapy?  YES  NO

10. Are the costs of all treatments covered by my medical plan?  YES  NO  SOME

11. How long will treatment last? _________________________________________________

12. How do I get to speak to other patients with my kind of cancer?
   - Name: ___________________________  Telephone #: ___________________________
   - Name: ___________________________  Telephone #: ___________________________

13. What support group should I go to?
   - Name: ___________________________  Contact: ________________________________

14. What side effects does the therapy have?
   - Nausea
   - Vomiting
   - Fatigue
   - Pain
   - Infection
   - Mouth ulcers
   - Hair Loss
   - Diarrhea
   - Sexual Dysfunction
   - Other ______________________________

15. When I have questions or side effects, who should I contact?
   - During working hours:  Name ___________________________  Telephone # __________
   - For emergencies:  Name ___________________________  Telephone # __________

16. How can I tell if the treatment is working? _______________________________________

17. Can I take my other medications while I am getting treatment for cancer? __________