

# General Questions for breast cancer pts

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You are your own best resource You are your own advocate, spokesperson, data manager, secretary and more More knowledge is better Organization is key If you don't understand, ask for clarification If you still don't understand, ask the doctors to explain another way If you aren't sure about what they are recommending, consider a second opinion I believe that all doctors worth their stripes encourage second opinions in cancer, because more than anything, I want people to feel like they really understood all their options before they chose a course of treatment

What cell type is it?

ductal carcinoma in situ

invasive ductal carcinoma

invasive lobular carcinoma

other

What stage is it thought to be currently?

What is the receptor status?

R (estrogen receptors)

PR (progesterone receptors)

Her-2-Neu -

What Grade is it? ( - 2 - ) (this is how cells look under the microscope)

Is there evidence of lymph node involvement?

## Surgical Questions

1. What are my surgical options? Which do you recommend?
2. Is surgery first? Or is there a role for chemotherapy first?
3. What type of lymph node surgery do you plan?
4. What reconstruction options are available if I choose mastectomy?
5. Do you offer a reduction and lift at time of surgery? Balancing on other side?

## Post Op Questions

1. What was the size of the tumor in the breast?
2. Where lymph nodes involved? How many?
3. What is the margin status? (is all cancer out?)
4. What is my pathologic stage?
5. Is oncotype testing recommended? Any other treatments needed?

## Med Onc Questions

1. What was my oncotype score? What does that mean?
2. Do I need chemotherapy?
3. Do I need hormonal therapy pills? Which type? How long?
4. (If Her-2 positive) Do I need any targeted treatments?
5. If I need chemo, which drugs? What schedule? How long total?

## Radiation Questions

1. What are my radiation options?

2. Which are you recommending?

3. Do I need treatment to the lymph nodes? Which ones?

4. How many treatments are you recommending?

5. Do you offer prone treatment or breath hold (if left sided breast cancer)?