



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

## HER2-Targeted Therapies for Early Breast Cancer

HER2 is a protein on the surface of some cancer cells that causes them to grow. HER2 is important in the pathway for cell growth and survival. If the amount of HER2 is high, the tumor is HER2-positive. About 10% to 20% of newly diagnosed breast cancers are HER2-positive. These breast cancers are treated with [HER2-targeted therapies](#). There are different HER2-targeted therapies for early-stage and [metastatic breast cancer](#).

You may feel overwhelmed or unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation.

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**Q:** What is my stage of breast cancer?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q:** What HER2-targeted treatment are you recommending for me and why? Will I need other treatments?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q:** Why is it important to add HER2-targeted therapy to my treatment plan?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q:** Will I need any tests or scans before starting this treatment?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q:** How does HER2-targeted therapy work?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Q: How will this treatment be given?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: When will I start this treatment and how long will I have to take it?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: What are common side effects of this treatment? How can they be managed? What side effects should I report to you?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q: What clinical trials are available for me?

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Notes:

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For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call the Komen Patient Care Center's Breast Care Helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or visit [komen.org](https://www.komen.org). Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

**1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) [komen.org](https://www.komen.org)**