

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Hormone Therapy and Side Effects

Some breast cancers need the hormones estrogen and/or progesterone to grow. [Hormone therapy](#) treats breast cancer by preventing the cancer cells from getting the hormones they need to grow. Hormone therapy is only used to treat hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. Tamoxifen, aromatase inhibitors and ovarian suppression (with drugs or surgery) are types of hormone therapy. Others, such as ovarian suppression (drug therapy or surgery), are sometimes used.

You may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation. More questions can be found [here](#).

Q: What tests were done on my tumor? What were the estrogen receptor status and progesterone receptor status of my tumor? How do these affect my treatment plan?

A: _____

Q: Do I need hormone therapy? If so, why and which kind?

A: _____

Q: How does the hormone therapy you are recommending for me work?

A: _____

Q: When will hormone therapy be started? How long will I be on it?

A: _____

Q: How do I take it? How often?

A: _____

Q: What are the possible side effects of this hormone therapy? How long will they last? Which ones should I report to you?

A: _____

Q: What can I do to prevent or manage the side effects of hormone therapy?

A: _____

Q: What out of pocket costs may I expect?

A: _____

Q: Is there a generic form of this hormone therapy? Is it as effective as the name brand?

A: _____

Notes:



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. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) komen.org