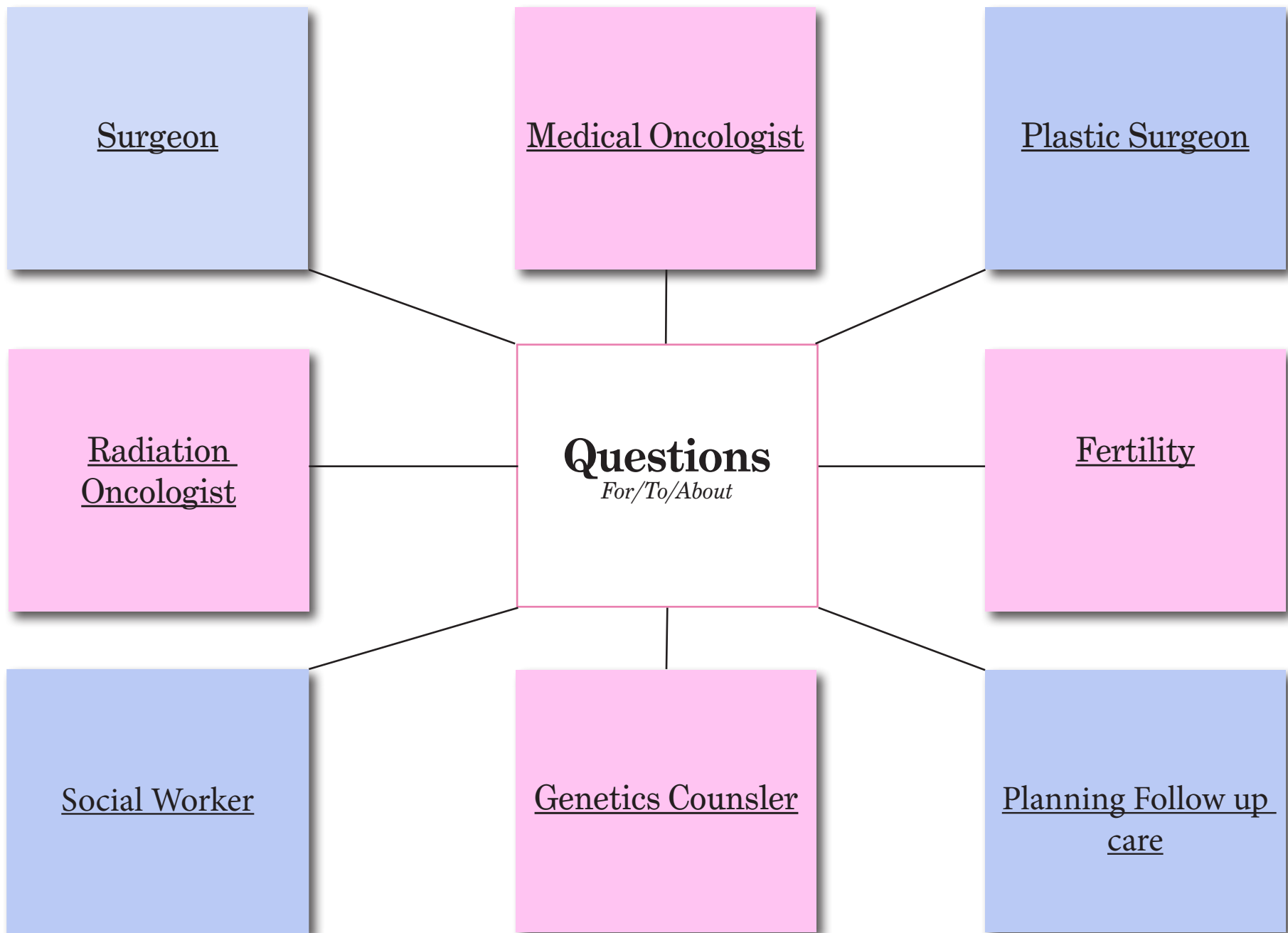


Questions Questions



Questions For The Surgeon

Question about the initial biopsy

What is the biopsy results?

Is this invasive cancer? How aggressive?

What is the hormonal status of the tumor? What is the Her2 status?

Do you recommend more biopsy procedures?

Do you recommend genetic testing?

Questions prior to surgery

What is my stage now?

Is my tumor is only in one area?

What additional imaging studies do I need to do? Is breast MRI needed? do I need PET scan?

What surgical treatment do you recommend (breast conserving vs. mastectomy)? and Why?

Questions For The Surgeon

What cosmetic outcome do I expect? Do I need to see plastic surgeon?

How long will I stay in the hospital?

What surgical complications can occur?

How can I prepare for surgery?

What kind of reconstruction procedure is recommended for me? is it covered by insurance?

How about the lymph node? do you plan to biopsy?

What recovery time do I expect?

Is it necessary to receive chemotherapy or other therapy before surgery? and Why?

Do I need to see Medical Oncologist or Radiation Oncologist? Do you all communicate with each other?

Questions For The Surgeon

Questions after the surgery

How long is the healing process?

What can I do to prevent lymphedema (arm swelling)?

What was my surgical margins?

Was the lymph nodes involved?

What is my stage now?

Do I need more surgery?

What other subsequent treatment do you recommend?

Questions For The Medical Oncologist

Questions about the diagnosis

Can you explain the pathology report?

What Her2 means?

What do the hormones receptors show?

Is my cancer invasive or non-invasive? or both?

What is my tumor stage? What is my prognosis?

Can you explain the Recurrence Score for me? is there any other similar testing? How accurate is the Recurrence Score?

Can you explain the genetic screening test for me?

Questions about the treatment

What treatment do you recommend? and Why? is this a clinical trial?

Do I need to start chemotherapy before surgery? and Why?

Questions For The Medical Oncologist

What is the difference between hormonal therapy, chemotherapy, and biologic therapy? Which one applies to my case? Why do I need such treatment(s)?

What is the timing of each treatment?

How long will my treatment take?

Will insurance pay for my treatment?

Will I be able to work during the treatment? When do I expect to go back to work?

How do I prepare myself for the treatment?

What side effects do I expect? will I lose my hair? What do about nausea? how to treat it?

Where will the treatment take place?

Can I drive myself for the treatment?

Questions For The Medical Oncologist

How will we know that the treatment is working?

What late side effects do I expect?

Do you recommend any nutritional supplements? What diet do you recommend while on treatment?

Can I take herbal supplements during my treatment? Is there any risk?

Do I need genetic screening? Why?

Questions For Plastic surgeon

Do you recommend breast reconstruction?

Is there more than one type of reconstruction available?

Which reconstruction procedure do you recommend for me? and Why?

When exactly will the reconstruction take place?

Will I need more than one procedure?

Will the reconstructed side size match the other breast size? How can you remedy that?

What outcome do I expect?

What can be done about the nipple?

What side effects do I expect?

Can you show me photos of prior reconstruction outcome?

Questions For Plastic surgeon

What reconstruction procedure side effects I need to know about?

Will reconstruction affect my prognosis?

Do you expect the reconstruction procedure to interfere with my chemotherapy or radiation therapy?

Is reconstruction is covered under my insurance?

Questions For Radiation Oncologist

Do you recommend radiation therapy? and Why?

How long is my radiation therapy? is there a possibility of shortened radiation therapy?

Will the radiation therapy involve the armpit area?

Will the radiation therapy damage my lung or my heart?

How can I prepare myself for the radiation therapy?

What immediate and late side effects? What can I do to ease the side effects?

Will radiation therapy harm my skin?

Questions About Fertility

Will be able to conceive children after my chemotherapy?

Will I be able to pursue breast feeding?

Will my menstrual cycle resume again?

What method of contraception is advised following my chemotherapy?

What can be done to help preserve ovarian function? what options are available, are they covered by insurance?

Question For Social Worker

How can you help me during my treatment?

What assistance do I expect with regard to my prescriptions cost?

What Federal, state and local assistance is available for patient undergoing cancer therapy?

Do I expect pharmaceutical company funded foundations to help?

How can I get in touch with you?

What can I do to help advance the research for cancer cure?

Please also read <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/patient-education/facing-forward.pdf>

How can I volunteer at the American Cancer Society?

Please also read <https://www.cancer.org/involved/volunteer/sign-up-to-volunteer.html>

Questions For Genetic Counsler

Why do I need genetic testing? Do I have a hereditary breast and ovarian cancer (HBOC)?

What specific gene I am tested for?

Do I need extended testing beyond the above?

How long will I have to wait for the results?

Will insurance pay for genetic screening?

What will the result mean for me and my treating team?

What other tools and resources I can look on my own?

I suggest you looking at the following please also consider checking the genetics resources in the link page here <http://www.breastcancerinfocus.com/links/>

<https://myriad.com/patients-families/patient-resources/>

<http://patients.ambrygen.com/cancer>

Questions about Follow-up Planning

Following the completion of my treatment, what to expect with regard to

- a. Chances my cancer will come back?
- b. What symptoms to look for?
- c. How often do I have to see the my treating physicians?
- d. Will I be provided with a follow up plan/ survivorship plan?

Please refer to detailed printable interactive survivorship plan here

<http://www.breastcancerinfofocus.com/survivorship/>