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These are some questions a patient may want to ask the doctor before treatment begins:

- What is my diagnosis?
- What is the stage of my disease?
- What are my treatment choices? Which do you recommend for me? Why?
- What are the benefits of each kind of treatment?
- What are the risks and possible *side effects* of each treatment?
- How will I feel after surgery?
- If I have pain, how will it be controlled?
- Will I need more treatment after surgery?
- Will there be a scar? Will I need a skin graft or plastic surgery?
- What is the treatment likely to cost?
- Will treatment affect my normal activities? If so, for how long?
- How often will I need checkups?
- Would a *clinical trial* (research study) be appropriate for me? Can you help me find one?