

About Breast Cancer Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy uses drugs to kill cancer cells. It usually begins four to six weeks after the final surgery. Most often it involves the use of a combination of drugs, which have a number of side effects on the body.

Answers to these questions will help you understand the reason for chemotherapy.

- ? Why is chemotherapy recommended for me?
- ? What is the significance of cancer found or not found in the lymph nodes? How many lymph nodes do I have under my arm and how many are involved (have cancer cells in them)?
- ? If my lymph nodes are not involved, should chemotherapy or hormone therapy still be considered?

Answers to these questions will help you understand the drugs involved and their effects.

- ? What drugs will I be taking? Why have you chosen these drugs for me? Are there other combinations that are also considered effective?
- ? What are the possible side effects of this type of chemotherapy? Are they permanent? What are the long-term risks? How can I prevent or treat these side effects?
- ? Which side effects should I report to you immediately?

Answers to these questions will help you prepare for your treatment and follow-up.

- ? How soon should chemotherapy be started?
- ? In what form and how often will the treatment be given? Will I need someone to go with me?
- ? How long will each treatment take? How many treatments will I have?
- ? Will I still be able to work, exercise, etc. during these treatments? Are there special precautions I should take while on chemotherapy or afterwards?
- ? Will the cost of the treatment be covered by my health insurance?