

About Treatment Choices

In deciding on the best treatment plan, several factors are examined: age, tumor stage and estrogen receptor (ER) status. However, deciding on a treatment is as much a personal matter for you as it is a medical one. The type of treatment you decide upon should be based on the treatment's risks and benefits and how they relate to your own values and lifestyle.

Answers to these questions will help you determine the best treatment plan for you.

- ? What are my treatment options? What are you recommending for me and why? Can you share the evidence on the effectiveness of this treatment with me?
- ? What is your opinion about breast-conserving surgery (lumpectomy) followed by radiation therapy? Am I a candidate for this type of treatment? (Anyone considering this option should also consult with a radiation oncologist). Will a sentinel lymph node biopsy be done?
- ? Will I need more (adjuvant) treatment (radiation therapy, chemotherapy and/or hormonal therapy) after my surgery? Can you refer me to a radiation oncologist for radiation therapy and a medical oncologist to discuss the need for chemotherapy or hormonal therapy?
- ? Can breast reconstruction be done at the time of the surgery, as well as later? Can you refer me to a reconstructive surgeon before my surgery?
- ? If I choose not to have reconstruction, what types of breast prostheses are available? Where can I buy a breast prosthesis? Is it covered by my insurance?
- ? How long do I have to make a treatment decision? What will my insurance cover?
- ? Is there a clinical trial that is enrolling patients with my type of breast cancer? If so, how can I learn more?