

## Diagnostic Questions

- What is my diagnosis?
- What is the specific name of my cancer (ie.what type of tumor is it)?
- Where is my cancer located?
- Has my cancer spread (metastasized ) to other organs or tissues?
- How large are the cancerous lesions?
- Where did the primary cancer originate from?
- What is the staging of my cancer?
- Will I require further diagnostic tests?
  - Get the specific names of these tests.
- If I require further diagnostic tests, how long do you estimate it will take before a decision is made about surgery?
- Will I have a biopsy to confirm diagnosis, staging and tumour type?
- Is there a way to move diagnostic assessments along quickly?
  - Cancellation lists
  - Hospitals that I could drive to, that have less patient volume
- Are there medical establishments that specialize in treating this specific cancer?

## Surgery Questions For Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary Surgeon

- Can my tumour be surgically removed?
  - Why or why not?
- How many pancreatic surgeries have you performed?
- How many pancreatic surgeries have you performed in the past year?
- How many pancreatic cancer surgeries are performed at this hospital each year?
- If I qualify for surgery, what are the possible complications?
- How long is recovery expected to take?
- Have you participated in clinical trials involving pancreatic cancer treatments? If so, what were these clinical trials?

## Chemotherapy Questions For Medical Oncologist

- How many pancreatic cancer patients do you care for each year?
- Are you aware of clinical trials for me, based on my individual diagnosis?
- What are ALL my treatment options?
  - Write down all options so that you can refer to them later.
- What are the risks / side effects of each of these treatment options?

# Craig's Cause

## Pancreatic Cancer Society

- What treatment option do you recommend for my individual case? Why?
- What are the risks/ side effects to the treatments suggested?
- Will treatment be on an inpatient or outpatient basis?
- If I decide against treatment what can I expect?
- Will there be other health care professionals involved in my care?
  - Nutritionists
  - Social Worker
  - Psychologist
  - Radiologist
  - Nurse Navigator
  - Oncology Pharmacist

### **Educational Resources**

- What organizations are available for me to contact that deal specifically with this type of cancer?
- Where can I find literature on my cancer?
- What facilities are involved in the research of this particular cancer?

### **Life Expectations**

- What will my life look like while I go through treatment?
- Will there be physical limitations?
- Will there be lifestyle changes?
- Will there be dietary changes?
- Will I be able to work?

### **Resources**

- Canadian Cancer Society
- John Hopkins Pancreas Cancer Web
- National Cancer Institute of Canada
- Pancreatic Cancer Action Network