

### **Questions to ask your doctor about prostate cancer.**

Health man with primary care physician

- 1) What are the risk factors that I should be aware of?
- 2) What can I do to reduce my risk of developing prostate cancer?
- 3) Is my diet ideal to reduce my risk of prostate and other cancers?
- 4) Are there any symptoms of prostate cancer that I should bring to your attention?
- 5) Do you feel the PSA test is worth having? If not what are my alternatives?
- 6) Where do you come down on the controversy surrounding prostate cancer screening?
- 7) Will I get screened if I am your patient?
- 8) Am I a candidate for finasteride or dutasteride therapy to reduce my risk of prostate cancer?
- 9) Are there any studies of cancer detection or prevention that I could consider?

### **Questions to ask your doctor after diagnosis.**

- 1) What kind of cancer do I have?
- 2) What is the stage of cancer?
- 3) Is it localized or metastatic?
- 4) Is it a low risk
- 5) Do I need treatment?
- 6) What are the treatment options that I should consider?
- 7) For each treatment mentioned:
  - a) What is the primary goal of the treatment?
    - i) Cure? Control of disease? Something else?
  - b) What is the chance that the treatment will be successful in me specifically?
  - c) What are the main side effects of this treatment?
  - d) What are the chances that these side effects will occur?
  - e) Can these side effects be fixed, managed, or eliminated, or are they permanent?
  - f) What are the alternatives available to me?
- 8) How much experience do you have administering this treatment?
- 9) Do you have data you can share about your results? (particularly relevant for surgery)
- 10) Would you recommend a second opinion? Whom would you see for this?

### **Other Questions once diagnosed.**

- 1) How extensive/aggressive is my cancer ?
- 2) What is the prognosis associated with this cancer without any treatment ?
- 3) What are my treatment options and what are the expected outcomes, with respect to both controlling/eliminating my cancer and side effects of treatment ?
- 4) How do the possible treatment compare to one another ?
- 5) Do I need treatment and why ?
- 6) What are the factors that are behind your recommendation for one treatment over another ?
- 7) Does my age and health affect your recommendations ?
- 8) What are your personal results with the treatment you recommend ? (how many men do you treat, do you keep track of results, what are the results)
- 9) Should I get a second opinion ?
- 10) Is there a role for combining more than 1 therapy in this situation ?