



What to Ask Your Doctor About Your Cancer: Alex's Checklist

- What were the tools you used to diagnose my cancer?
 - This should include pathology, imaging, and bloodwork.
 - Ask for copies of the tests.

- Is there a possibility for confusion/misdiagnosis with this case? Is this type of cancer ever mixed up with other cancers or other diseases where there is a similar pathology?
 - You want to make sure that you have been diagnosed properly. If there is a chance that it can be something else, seek a second opinion or more testing.

- Has there been any molecular profiling done? If not, then you need to ask for it or get it done privately.
 - Molecular profiling tests determines the RNA, DNA, biomarkers, and proteins/enzymes that are UNIQUE to your cancer
 - What level has this been done, has this been confirmed with secondary testing.

- Has there been tumor DNA sequencing done? If not, then you need ask for it or get it done privately.
 - This is important for identifying the targeted treatments and drugs that will be most effective for your cancer – *otherwise your treatment plan is guesswork at best.*

- Ask about getting MSI and MMR testing.
 - High MSI or MMR can illustrate if certain chemotherapy drugs, as well as if PD-1 inhibitors/ immunotherapy will work for you, regardless of what type of cancer you have.

- If you are under the age of 50, you should ask for inherited germline testing, regardless of your family history.
 - An inherited mutation in your body can disrupt or augment certain types of cancer treatments.
 - This is approved by the FDA, and should be covered by public healthcare.