

The background is a solid light pink color. On the left side, there is a white vine that curves upwards and then downwards, with several small white leaves. A thick, olive-green vine enters from the bottom left, curves across the middle, and then loops back down towards the bottom right. A thick, pink vine enters from the bottom right, loops back up and then down towards the bottom center. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

Key Questions

to ask your
medical oncology team
after being diagnosed
with breast cancer

Tips to make your visit with the physician a *success*:

Bring this list of questions, a pen and paper to write down the answers. Also bring copies of your pathology report.

Bring a family member or member of Sisters Network[®] Inc. to accompany you for support and also to absorb the information.

Don't be afraid to tell your physician you don't understand information he/she has shared with you regarding your treatment options.

Surgical Oncologist

- What can I expect with surgery?
- What type of surgery will I have?
Mastectomy or lumpectomy?
- Sentinel Lymph Node Dissection-Is there information available on the procedure?
- What do you recommend for minimizing the risk of complications from surgery?
- Where will my surgery be done?
- What type of help or care will I need at home post-surgery?
- After my surgery, what kind of follow up care will I receive?
- Will I need radiation before or after the surgery?
- Can breast reconstruction be performed at the time of surgery or later?
- What type of tests will I require prior to surgery?

Medical Oncologist

- What stage is my breast cancer?
- Am I node negative or node positive?
- How does my nodal status affect my risk for recurrence?
- Will I need systemic therapies (chemotherapy, hormonal treatment and novel targeted therapy) and which are appropriate for my stage of cancer?
- How will my systemic therapy be administered?
- What are the possible side effects of the systemic therapy that is appropriate for me?
- How does my menopausal status play a role in treatment?
- Are there any other medical issues I should know about that could affect my breast cancer treatment (Pregnancy, premenopause, etc.)?
- What type of test will I require prior to chemotherapy?

Radiation Oncologist

- Do I need radiation?
- How will my radiation be given? (What method will be used?)
- What do you recommend for managing the side effects of radiation therapy?
- After I finish radiation, what kind of follow-up care will I receive?
- How many treatments will I receive?
- Any long-term effects?

Pathology Report (Tumor Testing)

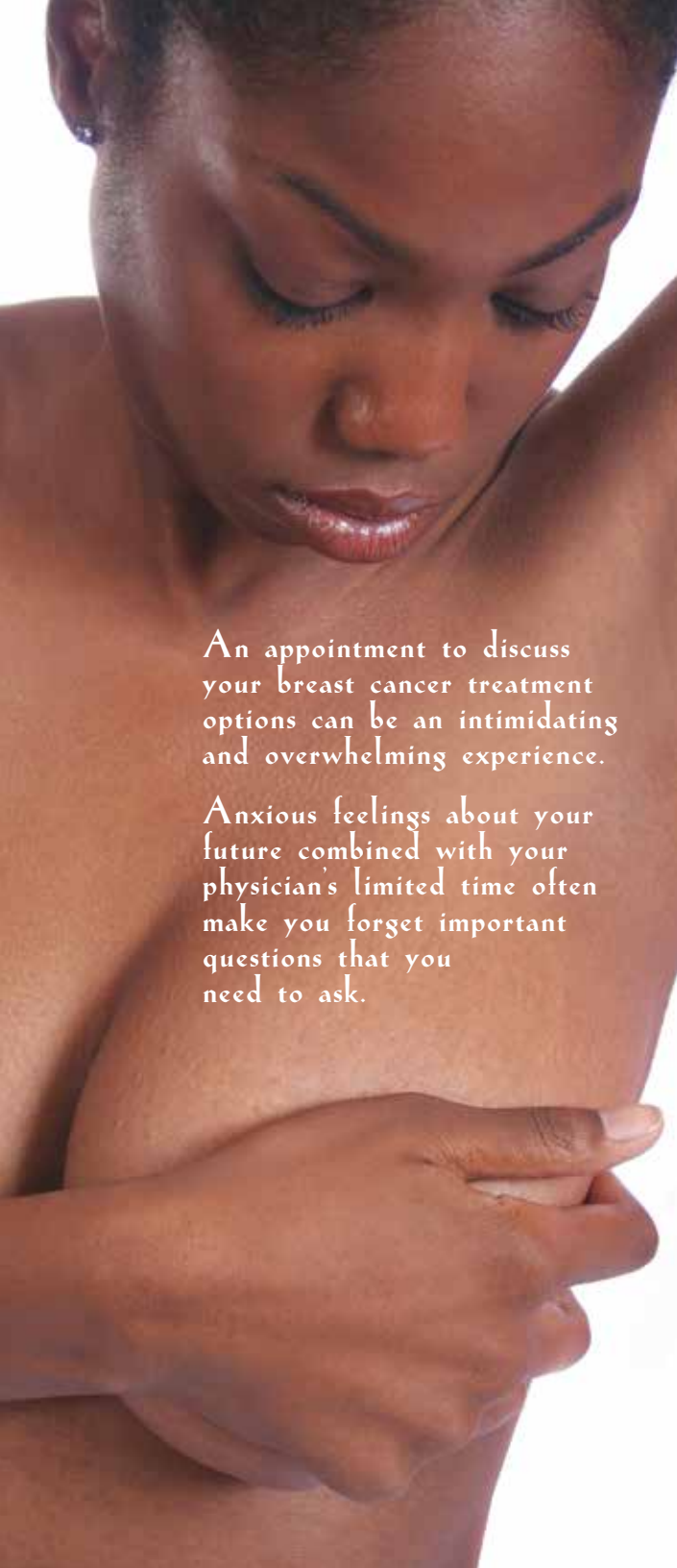
- What kinds of tests will be done on my tumor?
- How will the test results affect my treatment options?
- Is my breast cancer hormone receptor positive (estrogen and/or progesterone receptor positive)? Will this affect my treatment options?
- Please explain my Pathology Report?

Chemotherapy

- Do you recommend chemotherapy and why?
- What type of chemotherapy do you recommend and why?
- Are there any other chemotherapy options that may be right for me?
- How will the chemotherapy be given?
- How many chemotherapy treatments will I receive?
- What are the side effects of chemotherapy? Will these side effects last a long time?
- What do you recommend for managing the side effects of chemotherapy?
- After I finish chemotherapy, what kind of follow-up care will I receive?
- Any long-term effects?

Hormonal Treatment

- Do you recommend hormonal treatment and why?
- What type of hormonal treatment is best for me and why?
- Are there other hormonal treatment options that may be right for me?
- When will I start the hormonal treatment and how long will I need to take the hormonal treatment?
- How will the hormonal treatment be given?
- What are the side effects of hormonal treatment? Will these side effects last a long time?
- What do you recommend for managing the side effects of hormonal therapy?
- Will I need follow-up care after hormonal treatment? For how long?



An appointment to discuss your breast cancer treatment options can be an intimidating and overwhelming experience.

Anxious feelings about your future combined with your physician's limited time often make you forget important questions that you need to ask.



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Donation



To make a donation, visit
www.sistersnetworkinc.org
to help in the fight against breast cancer.



Supported by a grant from the
Houston Affiliate of Susan G. Komen
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