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Melanoma Guide – Patients and Relatives

Ask for the visit to the doctor

E. Diagnosis: stage II melanoma

Dear readers,

The following are questions to ask when visiting a doctor if I have been diagnosed with stage two melanoma.

1. What criteria led to the diagnosis of stage II?
2. Did the biopsy remove all the melanoma, or will I need another biopsy?
3. Did the biopsy show further findings such as ulceration, or a high mitotic division rate?
4. Do you think that a second opinion regarding the biopsy needs to be sought to confirm the diagnosis before starting treatment?
5. Is a sentinel lymph node biopsy necessary?
6. How much experience does the surgeon in charge have with a sentinel lymph node biopsy, if I need it?
7. After the current stage of melanoma, what is the probability that it has already spread to other parts of my body?
8. What is the probability that the cancer will reappear?
9. How do you assess the possibility that a second melanoma could develop?
10. Will I need additional diagnostics to confirm the stage of melanoma; do you initiate a tumor marker analysis?
11. What treatment plan do you suggest and why?
12. Should I consider adjuvant treatments such as chemotherapy and why?
13. What are the goals of the treatment?
14. What are possible side effects of this treatment?
15. Should I participate in a clinical trial?
16. What kind of follow-up care will I need?

17. General questions for stage II

18. Have you inspected all moles and assessed my lymph nodes?
19. How often should I attend skin cancer screenings?
20. What preventive measures can I take to reduce the risk of second melanoma?
21. How do you assess the risk of other family members also developing melanoma?