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Melanoma Guide – Patients and Relatives

Ask list for the visit to the doctor

G. Diagnosis: stage IV

Dear readers,

The following are the questions that may arise during a visit to the doctor if you have been diagnosed with stage four melanoma.

1. What criteria led to the diagnosis of stage IV ?
2. Is my brain affected?
3. Will I need additional diagnostics to confirm the stage of melanoma; will you arrange for tumor marker analysis?
4. Should I get a second opinion?
5. How do you assess my prognosis?
6. Will surgery be necessary?
7. What treatment do you recommend and why?
8. Should I consider chemotherapy and/ or immunotherapy as treatment?
9. What is the difference between chemotherapy and immunotherapy?
10. What are the goals of my therapy?
11. What are possible side effects of treatment?
12. Will the treatment interfere with my work?
13. Will I need radiation?
14. Should I participate in a clinical trial?
15. Are you involved in other clinical trials that are important to me?
16. Should I contact a center that conducts clinical trials?
17. Can I use other supportive or alternative therapies?
18. What kind of aftercare will I need?
19. Will I need regular imaging techniques? Do I need brain imaging?
20. Should I consult a dermatologist regularly?
21. How do you assess the risk that other family members will also develop melanoma?