

Comparing treatment choices

Name / initials:

1 / 4 Start with the decision and your priorities

This is a conversation aid, not a recommendation, consent form or score. Ask the clinician to identify reasonable alternatives. Supportive or palliative care can accompany cancer treatment.

Type in a form-capable PDF reader, save a copy, then close and reopen it to check. Completed files are not encrypted; keep them securely. Text boxes can scroll: for long answers, keep the full text in your own document labelled with this worksheet and question, and enter "See attached notes" here. Print your completed copy from the reader and check print preview. If your language does not display correctly, use a document that supports it, or print and write by hand.

Decision being considered / date / clinician to discuss it with

What the patient hopes treatment will help them do or feel

Burdens or outcomes the patient particularly wants to avoid

Information or communication support needed; who may join the conversation

How soon a decision is needed, confirmed by the treating team; what is safe to clarify first

For long answers, enter "See attached notes" and print the full response separately. Check that all intended text is visible in print preview.

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2 / 4 Option A: ask the same questions

Record the clinician's explanation. Ask whether numbers apply to people like this patient. If an estimate is uncertain or unavailable, record that rather than guessing.

Name of option / treatment goal / what it involves

Expected benefit in absolute numbers if available; outcome, time period and uncertainty

Common burdens and important serious risks; impact on function and daily life

Visits, time away from home, monitoring, support and likely out-of-pocket costs

How success will be checked; reasons to pause, stop or change

For long answers, enter "See attached notes" and print the full response separately. Check that all intended text is visible in print preview.

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3 / 4 Option B: ask the same questions

Use another copy for an additional option. Where clinically relevant, ask what symptom-focused care without another cancer-directed treatment would involve.

Name of option / treatment goal / what it involves

Expected benefit in absolute numbers if available; outcome, time period and uncertainty

Common burdens and important serious risks; impact on function and daily life

Visits, time away from home, monitoring, support and likely out-of-pocket costs

How success will be checked; reasons to pause, stop or change

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4 / 4 Bring the comparison back to the patient

There is no total score and no automatically preferred option. The patient can ask for more explanation, a second opinion or another conversation within the clinical time available.

Which option fits the patient's priorities and why; remaining concerns

Questions the team still needs to answer / who will answer them / by when

What the patient understood about the alternatives, benefits, risks and uncertainty

Next discussion or decision step; any separate formal consent required by the hospital

Review point and situations that should prompt an earlier conversation

For long answers, enter "See attached notes" and print the full response separately. Check that all intended text is visible in print preview.