

Suggested Questions to Ask Your Physician

Knowledge and Experience of the Physician

How many ACC patients have you treated over the course of your practice?

How many cancer patients of all types have you treated in your practice?

Do you consider yourself to be knowledgeable about ACC, or do you know any other doctors who are?

Diagnosis and Pathology

What is my diagnosis? Precisely what type of cancer do I have and how do you spell it?

What is the supporting evidence and reason for this conclusion?

What is the primary site and name of the organ where the cancer is located?

Can I see a picture of exactly where the tumor is located?

What is the stage of my cancer and what organs are involved?

What tests are necessary to find this out? Are they uncomfortable?

What are the written results of the X-Ray, CT or MRI scans or any other diagnostic tests?

Has it spread beyond the primary site?

Are we going to consider a scan for the lungs since ACC has a high propensity for lung mets?

Treatment Decisions

What are the treatment goals? Cure or control?

How will you know that the treatment is working or has been effective?

What are the day-to-day steps in the treatment process?

Is there a choice between surgery and radiation, or both?

If both are being recommended, why?

Is there a role or good clinical reason for chemotherapy?

When would you recommend that for my consideration?

Are there any clinical trials for new targeted ACC treatments that I should consider, and what are the reasons you would recommend that I consider them?

What are the advantages and benefits, disadvantages and risks for each kind of treatment?

Are there any other physicians you would suggest that I get a second opinion from?

If so, how much experience has the doctor had with this type of tumor? With what results?

Is there a multidisciplinary approach?

If several specialists are to be involved with my care, who will coordinate my treatments?

What kind of functional disability might I have from the treatment?

What complications and side effects can I expect from treatment?

What discomfort or pain will I experience?

What types of palliative treatments do you recommend for dealing with side effects?

Will I have trouble eating, swallowing, hearing or speaking?

Will I need any kind of speech therapy? Swallowing therapy?

Will I possibly have any other long term side effects?

How will I look after the treatments? Will I have a cosmetic disability?

How will my lifestyle change regarding work, family relationships, and recreation?

How long does it take to recover from the treatment?

When can I return to work?

Follow Up Care and Expectations: Life after Treatment

How often would you recommend we do follow up visits after treatment?

What tests, scans and exams would you recommend for me after treatment?

At what frequency would you suggest?

What are the risks of future medical problems?

Will any current treatment options limit future treatment option?

Is there anything I can do to prevent a recurrence?

Is there a chance that after treatment the cancer will recur?

How will I know if a recurrence does take place?

Am I more susceptible to developing cancer in other primary sites?

Insurance and Financial Considerations

Who do I speak with about my financial responsibilities and how my insurance coverage will be handled?

Are there any other resources available if I need help financially?