

QUESTIONS TO ASK MY DOCTOR

Here are some questions that you may want to ask your doctors when discussing your colorectal cancer surgery and/or treatment. More questions can be found at www.diagnocurelabs.com. Add yours as you prepare for your visit.

➤ BEFORE THE SURGERY:

- What do you know about my cancer right now? Where exactly is it located?
- Has my cancer spread?
- What tests will be run prior to my surgery?
- What other doctors will I have to see for my cancer? Do you have any recommendations?
- What does the surgery look like? What part of my colon (or rectum) will you take out?
- Will I have normal bowel movements after my surgery? Will I need a permanent or temporary colostomy?
- Will I be cured after the surgery or will I need chemotherapy and/or radiation?

➤ AFTER THE SURGERY (your doctor may not be able to answer all those questions at the first post-operation visit):

- Were you able to remove the entire tumor?
- How large was my tumor?
- What does the pathology report say about my diagnosis? What are my stage and my risk of recurrence?
- What additional treatment do you recommend and why? What are my options?
- What are the benefits of this treatment?
- What are the risks and side effects of this treatment in the short term and in the long term?
- What is the impact of this treatment on my body and my daily life?
- How long will I have to undergo treatment?
- When will I be able to return to work?
- How will I be followed?

➤ IF YOU HAVE NO CANCER CELLS IN YOUR LYMPH NODES ACCORDING TO THE PATHOLOGY REPORT:

- I understand that up to 30% of patients with no cancer cells in their lymph nodes have disease recurrence. What is my risk of being one of them?
- I have heard of a new test, Previstage™ GCC, that uses a more sensitive technology to identify the presence of cancer cells in my lymph nodes. Can we test my lymph nodes to make sure there is no cancer cell in them? [Bring the *Information for my doctor* sheet in case he or she does not know the test]

ADD your own questions:
