

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Hormone Therapy and Side Effects

Some breast cancers need the hormones estrogen and/or progesterone to grow. [Hormone therapy](#) treats breast cancer by preventing the cancer cells from getting the hormones they need to grow. Hormone therapy is only used to treat hormone receptor-positive breast cancers. Most breast cancers are hormone receptor-positive. There are two main types of hormone therapy – tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors. Other therapies, such as ovarian suppression (drug therapy or surgery to prevent the ovaries from making estrogen), are sometimes used.

You may feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to ask your doctor. Here are some questions to help start the conversation.

Q: How does hormone therapy treat certain breast cancers?

A: _____

Q: Do I need hormone therapy? If so, why and which kind?

A: _____

Q: What tests were done on my tumor? What were the estrogen receptor status and progesterone receptor status of my tumor? How do these affect my treatment plan?

A: _____

Q: When will hormone therapy be started? How long will I be on it?

A: _____

Q: How do I take it? How often?

A: _____

Q: What are the possible side effects of hormone therapy? How long will they last? Which ones should I report to you?

A: _____

Q: What are the risks if I stop taking hormone therapy?

A: _____

Q: What out of pocket costs may I expect?

A: _____

Q: Is there a generic form of this hormone therapy? Is it as effective as the name-brand?

A: _____

Notes:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) or visit [komen.org](https://www.komen.org). Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

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