

# Questions to Ask Your **Healthcare Provider About Lab and Imaging Tests**

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Asking your healthcare provider questions can help you understand why a certain test is being done and will help you take an active role in managing your (or your child's) care. If you do not understand any part of the information your healthcare provider gives you, ask him or her to explain it in another way.

Doctor's name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of appointment or call \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** Why is the test being done?

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**2.** How and where is the test done? Is it painful?

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**3.** Will I be able to go back to work (go to school) after the test?

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**4.** Do I need to bring someone with me?

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**5.** How do I contact you if I have questions before/after the test?

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**6.** If/my child gets nervous about having blood drawn or getting a needle. Is there anything you can suggest to help ease this anxiety?

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**7.** If/my child gets nervous about being in enclosed spaces. Is there anything you can suggest to help ease this anxiety?

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**8.** Are there any potential side effects from the test? Are there things I can do to make sure I/my child is comfortable and properly protected during the test?

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**9.** How accurate is the test?

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**10.** Will this test be covered by my healthcare plan?

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**11.** How soon will I get the results? Will you contact me?

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**12.** What do my/my child's results show? How do these results compare to "normal"?

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**13.** Will these results affect my/my child's treatment?

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**14.** Are there additional tests that will be needed before starting therapy?

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**15.** Where and when will these tests need to be repeated?

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**16.** Will I/my child need additional tests or special monitoring for other medical conditions that might complicate treatment? (Examples are diabetes, high blood pressure, previous history of cancer.)

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**17.** Can I have a copy of the test results? Will you send copies of your notes and the test results to my family doctor (pediatrician)?

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**18.** How will I know when I/my child has a complete response to treatment?

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**19.** What type of follow-up tests will be needed? Will your office send me reminders for follow-up visits and tests?

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**20.** How often will I/my child need to get blood and/or marrow tests after treatment?

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**21.** Are there specific tests that you recommend after treatment is completed to check for any long-term and late effects of my/my child's treatment? When and how often are these tests needed?

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To print additional copies of this question guide, or to print copies of question guides on other topics, go to [www.lls.org/whattoask](http://www.lls.org/whattoask). You may also request that copies be sent to you by contacting an Information Specialist at (800) 955-4572.