



# Topics to address with your GIST care team throughout your journey

It can be hard to know what questions to ask your GIST care team, but it's important to be as informed as possible about GIST and your treatment plan.

To make sure you're asking the right questions, take this discussion guide with you to your next GIST doctor's appointment.



## Understanding disease progression and why treatments may stop working

Disease progression means that cancer cells may be growing, the tumor may be getting bigger, or it may be spreading.

It's important to know where you are in your GIST journey and what the next step would be if your GIST progresses.

### Here are a few questions to ask during your next GIST doctor's appointment:

1. What is the difference between GIST and advanced GIST?
2. What is a gene mutation and how does it impact my treatment plan?
3. How do I recognize if I am no longer responding to treatment or if my GIST is progressing?
4. If my GIST progresses, do treatment goals change?
5. Why might my treatment stop working?



## Familiarizing yourself with GIST treatments

The current medicines available for GIST are tyrosine kinase inhibitors, or TKIs.

There are a number of TKIs approved to treat GIST, including a few approved within the last few years!

Your treatment needs may change over time so it's important to know that you have options.

1. What are all of the available treatment options?
2. What treatment options will be available to me if my GIST progresses?
3. How can I get the most out of my medication?
4. How do I decide what treatment is right for me?



## Managing GIST symptoms and treatment side effects

As you may already know from prior treatments, GIST medications may cause side effects.

If you do experience a side effect, talk to your doctor. There may be something he or she can do to help, so let them know!

1. Are the side effects of all GIST treatments the same?
2. What are the common side effects of treatments available to me?
3. How do I distinguish between a symptom of GIST and a side effect of my medication?
4. If I do experience a side effect, what should I do?

**It's important to be informed and advocate for yourself when it comes to your treatment plan. Don't be afraid to ask questions!**

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