

# Questions to Ask Your Doctor - Primary Disease

Informed and Empowered Ocular Melanoma Patients Live Longer, Better Lives.

**There are a few specialists you may encounter, and you should know the difference between those specialists when choosing which will be best suited for your treatment plan.**

## **Primary Eye Tumour Related Questions:**

- What is ocular melanoma and how does it differ from cutaneous (skin) melanoma?
- What are the dimensions of the tumour? Diameter? Height? Thickness? What do they mean for treatment options?
- Can I receive a written report with this information?
- Is ocular melanoma staged like other cancers? If so, what stage am I?
- Will you do a biopsy of the tumour? Why/ Why not? What can be learned from the biopsy? Are there risks of doing a biopsy and what are they?
- If there is a biopsy, will you test my tumour for genetic mutations? How do mutations affect treatment options and metastatic disease?
- Should I look into genetic counselling?
- How will you determine if the cancer has spread? What is metastatic disease?

## **Treatment Questions:**

- What are my treatment options and what are the differences? Are there different options or treatment centres that I should know about?
- Which treatment do you think is best for me and why?
- What type of radiation treatments do you offer?
- Do I need to have my eye removed?
- How many OM patients have you treated?
- Are there different outcomes depending on the different treatments?
- What are the side effects of each treatment? How soon will those side effects emerge?
- Will my vision in the treated eye be affected? Is there medicine or a shot that could help?
- If vision loss is expected, when will it occur?
- Is losing one's sight painful? Will there be flashes of light or blind-spots? Will I be disabled? Can I drive?
- How will this affect my normal daily life?
- Should I get a second opinion?
- Are there recommended treatment centres elsewhere in Canada? Can I be referred?

This document was created with the permission of CureOM, an initiative of Melanoma Research Foundation [www.cureOM.org](http://www.cureOM.org)

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All references can be found on the Melanoma Research Foundation website at [www.melanoma.org](http://www.melanoma.org)