



## Patient Advocacy: Having An Active Role In Your Cancer Care Matters

A cancer diagnosis can feel overwhelming. Information may arrive quickly, decisions may feel urgent, and it is not always clear where to begin. While your oncology team brings deep clinical expertise and experience, **you remain an essential member of your care team.**

Having an active role in your care does not mean being a medical expert; it means being informed so you can feel confident that the best available options are being considered to fight your cancer.

**Patient advocacy begins with knowledge.** Learning about your diagnosis, recommended testing, and potential treatment options helps you ask informed questions and better understand how care decisions are made. This understanding allows conversations with your oncology team to reflect not only clinical considerations, but also your personal goals and quality-of-life priorities.

Being an active participant may include:

- ◆ Asking whether tumor biomarker testing is appropriate for your cancer type.
- ◆ Understanding how test results could inform treatment or clinical trial options.
- ◆ Seeking clarification when information feels unclear or overwhelming.
- ◆ Bringing questions or concerns to appointments, including those related to quality of life, side effects, or long-term survivorship.



Cancer care is increasingly personalized. **No two individuals - even those with the same cancer diagnosis - necessarily follow the same treatment pathway.** Differences in the molecular features of a tumor can influence testing recommendations and treatment strategies.

When patients understand why certain tests are recommended and how results may inform treatment planning, they are **better equipped to participate in important discussions** about their care.

**Your oncology provider should be a partner in your care.** If questions remain or additional clarity would be helpful, it is entirely appropriate to request further testing, ask for a referral to another cancer specialist, or seek a second - or even a third - opinion.

Additional perspectives are a normal and respected part of cancer care and can help confirm a diagnosis, strengthen confidence in a treatment plan, and, in some cases, introduce options or insights that may not have been previously discussed.

Patient advocacy does not signal doubt or distrust; it reflects engagement and partnership. At MADP, we believe that **knowledge is power**, and it is appropriate to ask questions at any stage of care - at diagnosis, during treatment, or in survivorship.

**No one is more invested in your health and well-being than you.** By understanding your care options and participating actively in discussions, you help ensure that decisions are aligned with both the science of cancer care and what matters most to you.



# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

