

Patient information from BMJ

Last published: Jun 23, 2020

Crohn's disease: questions to ask your doctor

If you've been diagnosed with Crohn's disease, you may want to talk to your doctor to find out more.

Here are some questions you might want to ask:

- How do you know I have Crohn's disease?
- Where can I find out more about Crohn's?
- Is there a support group in my area?
- Are there online support groups you'd recommend?
- Should I change my diet? Are there any foods I should avoid?
- Can I see a dietitian?
- Do I need to take vitamin tablets or other supplements?
- Is it a good idea to use over-the-counter treatments for pain or diarrhoea?
- Is there a choice of drug treatment for a flare-up?
- What do I do if my treatment doesn't work?
- Can I change drug treatments if I'm getting side effects?
- Is it worth taking treatment regularly, to prevent flare-ups?
- How will having Crohn's affect my ability to work?
- Will I need to change my lifestyle?
- Can you help me to stop smoking?
- When is surgery used to treat Crohn's disease?
- Will I need tests to make sure I don't have bowel cancer?

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