

GAMEPLAN FOR AFTER YOUR RARE CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Many patients and their families may experience a challenging road in reaching a correct diagnosis of rare forms of cancer. For example, gastrointestinal stromal tumors, GIST, are often difficult to diagnose as their symptoms differ based on the size and location of the tumor.

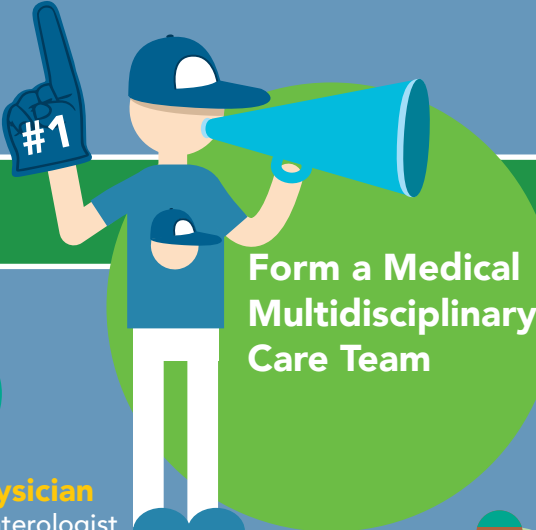
Once diagnosed, the journey has only just begun and patients need to act as their own best advocates. Here is a gameplan for helping to manage GIST.

GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors)

Gastrointestinal stromal tumors, or GIST, are a rare, life-threatening cancer of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, also known as the digestive system. Most GIST develop in the stomach or small bowel.



Step 1



Form a Medical Multidisciplinary Care Team

Diagnosing Physician

is often a gastroenterologist who examines your digestive system and works with the medical oncologist.



Medical Oncologist

specializes in GIST and helps determine your disease management plan.



Surgeon

removes GIST and keeps the oncologist informed of the pathology report.



Pathologist

Confirms the diagnosis of GIST and determines stage of disease based on review of the tumor.

Step 2

Ask Questions

Since you and/or your caregiver are your own best advocate, be sure to ask questions along the way.

1 | How advanced is my GIST? Will I need surgery?

2 | How many GISTs have you treated? Can you recommend an oncologist who specializes in GIST?

4 | What follow up will I need after surgery?

3 | What is my risk for GIST to come back after surgery?

Step 3

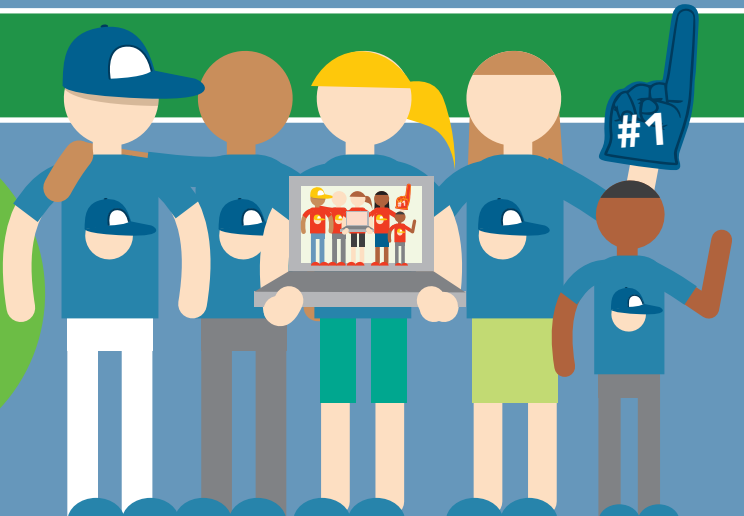


Determine Your Disease Management Plan

Commit to your plan by working with your multidisciplinary team on a tailored disease management approach, which may include removal of tumor via surgery, medical treatment and potential lifestyle changes.

Step 4

Lean On Your Support Team



70%

of patients with a rare form of cancer who feel in control of their disease believe that being surrounded by friends and family, as well as participating in online support networks, helps them feel more in control of their journey.