

Health/Self-Help

100

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD
Marina Symcox, PhD
George D. Demetri, MD

About **Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)**

EMPOWER YOURSELF!

Over the last decade, an increasing number of gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) have been recognized, and major advances have been made in the diagnosis and treatment of this uncommon cancer. Whether you're a newly diagnosed GIST patient, a survivor, or a friend or relative of either, this book offers help for understanding and dealing with GIST. Written by two world-class experts on the topic (a surgeon from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a medical oncologist from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute) as well as a prominent survivor and GIST patient advocate, Marina Symcox, this is the only text to provide the doctors' and patient's views. *100 Questions & Answers About Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST)* gives you authoritative, practical answers to your questions about diagnosis, treatment options—including information on important breakthroughs in the investigation of targeted therapy—post-treatment quality of life, sources of support, and much more. This book is an invaluable resource for anyone coping with the physical and emotional turmoil of GIST.

"While information for GIST patients is available through the internet, it is fragmented, and not all of it is accurate. This book provides a comprehensive compendium of facts and information that is well organized and fully vetted by leading experts in the field. All GIST patients, their families, and loved ones can benefit from reading this book."

—**Christopher L. Corless, MD, PhD**
Professor of Pathology
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon



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Symcox
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100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS About Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)



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100

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

About

Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)

Who gets GIST?

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What are the symptoms of GIST?

○○○○

How do I decide where to be treated?

○○○○

What is Gleevec (imatinib)?

○○○○

Will I need surgery?



by

Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD
Marina Symcox, PhD
George D. Demetri, MD



Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD, is a member of the Hepatobiliary Service in the Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He specializes in the treatment of liver, bile duct, and pancreas tumors. Dr. DeMatteo received his medical degree from Cornell Medical College and completed a surgical residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a fellow in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-

Kettering Cancer Center and then joined the staff. Dr. DeMatteo also performs laboratory research where he investigates how the immune system could be used to fight cancer.



Marina Symcox, PhD is a cancer survivor and co-founder of the patient support group GIST Support International (www.gistsupport.org). She received her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma, where she also studied mutant protein kinases in her post-graduate research. In 1997, she was diagnosed with advanced terminal Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor. After spending months in hospice

during 2000 and coming close to death, she became one of the first GIST patients to be treated in a clinical trial with the investigational drug "STI-571," now known as the breakthrough drug Gleevec. Having a remarkable recovery on Gleevec, Marina lives near Tulsa, Oklahoma with her husband and children, and works as a part-time laboratory instructor at the University of Tulsa.



George D. Demetri, MD, is the Quick Family Senior Investigator in Medical Oncology and Director of the Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. He is also Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 1983, Dr. Demetri received his medical degree from the Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto,

California. After completing his Internal Medicine residency and chief residency at the University of Washington Hospitals in Seattle, Washington, he pursued a fellowship in Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, where he has served as an attending physician since 1989. Dr. Demetri's research and clinical interests have focused on targeted drug development for the management of solid tumors, with a particular emphasis on GIST and other sarcomas. Dr. Demetri also serves as the Executive Director for Clinical and Translational Research for the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.

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