This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma. These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit NCCN.org/patients or, to order printed copies, visit Amazon.com

What is diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)?
Lymphoma is a cancer of white blood cells called lymphocytes that are within the lymphatic system. This system transports fluids to the bloodstream and fights germs. DLBCL is a cancer of B-cells that are from within or have been released by germinal centers of lymphatic organs.

How is DLBCL diagnosed?
Tissue from the tumor will likely be removed with an incisional or excisional biopsy. A doctor will test the tissue to look for a pattern of proteins on the cells’ surface that is common to DLBCL.

What health care is needed before treatment?
- A report of your health history and an exam of your body
- Blood tests to count blood cells, assess levels of chemicals, and check for viruses
- Whole-body PET/CT and maybe CT scans to look inside your body for cancer sites
- Removal of bone, marrow, and spinal fluid, if needed, to test for cancer
- Ratings of the outlook (prognosis) of the cancer to plan treatment
- A heart test if you will be taking certain cancer treatments
- Talk to a fertility specialist if you may want to have babies after treatment
- A pregnancy test if you are a woman who can have babies since some treatments can harm unborn babies
What are the treatment options?

| First-line treatment | Immunochemotherapy is the first treatment received
|                      | Treatment results will be assessed with PET/CT scan.
|                      | The next treatment depends on the cancer stage and treatment results
|                      | Finish immunochemotherapy
|                      | Radiation therapy (common for stages I & II)
|                      | Second-line treatment if immunochemotherapy didn’t work

| Follow-up care       | Get tested on a regular basis if first-line treatment worked
|                      | An update of your health history
|                      | An exam of your body
|                      | Lab tests
|                      | CT scan at times or as needed

| Second-line treatment | Immunochemotherapy then blood stem cell transplant
|                       | Clinical trial
|                       | Chemotherapy ± immunotherapy
|                       | Targeted therapy
|                       | Immunomodulator ± immunotherapy
|                       | Immunotherapy
|                       | Radiation therapy
|                       | Best supportive care

What are some tips for making good treatment decisions?

Ask your doctors many questions. Also, you could get a second opinion, attend support groups, and compare pros and cons.