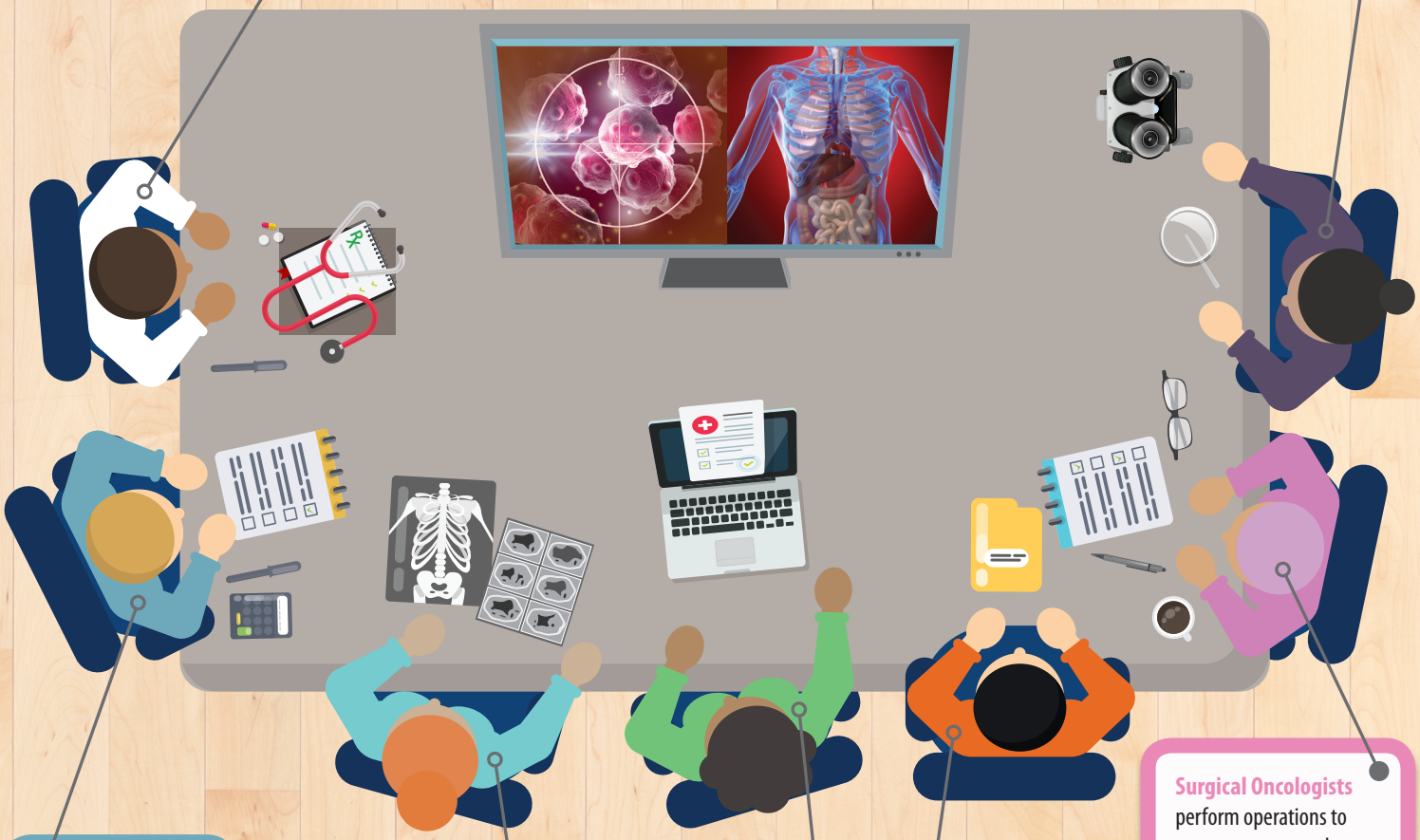
TUMOR BOARD

A **tumor board** is a group of specialists that meets regularly as a team to discuss individual cancer cases and provide multiple expert opinions. They contribute their knowledge and perspective to create and coordinate a tailored treatment plan that gives the best outcome for an individual patient.

Medical Oncologists treat cancer with drugs. These drugs include chemotherapy, biologic therapy or immunotherapy. They inform the team on the timing, benefits and the type of drugs that may work in your case and how best to combine these with other treatments.

Pathologists examine your biopsy to determine whether the cells are cancerous. They use the microscope and special tests to figure out where the cancer started and can help the team predict how cancers will behave.



Patient navigators/ coordinators help you coordinate appointments with your doctors, provide information on your disease and explain clinical trials you might be eligible for.

Radiologists help the team to pinpoint the areas that look like cancer. They examine and interpret your scans (CT, Ultrasound, MRI, PET-CT and/or bone scan) and X-rays. They may also perform a biopsy where they remove small pieces of the area of concern for testing.

Radiation Oncologists specialize in using radiation therapy to treat cancer. This can be external radiation, internal radiation or both. They inform the team on the timing, benefits and the type of radiotherapy that works and how best to combine radiotherapy with other treatments in your specific case.

Medical Social Workers support patients and their families with their cancer-related problems and concerns.

Surgical Oncologists perform operations to remove cancers and perform biopsies. They inform the team on the timing, benefits and the type of operation. They may be general surgeons, gynecologists, plastic surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, urologists, head and neck surgeons, breast surgeons, chest surgeons, neurosurgeons or other types of surgeons.

Other professionals who may also contribute to your case in a tumor board include primary care physicians, psychiatrists, social workers, geneticists, genetic counselors, clinical trial coordinators, research and specialist nurses and physician assistants, dentists, speech pathologists, audiologists, nutritionists, palliative medicine doctors and nurses, administrators and physical/occupational therapists.

RTAnswers
ANSWERS TO YOUR RADIATION THERAPY QUESTIONS