

¿Preguntas?

Stephen M. Quintero, MD

What do I do?
What to decide?
Which of the two kills the cancer inside?

Which is better?
Which is right?
Which one will help me continue the fight?

What if there's nausea?
What if I puke?
Will I lose weight or all of my hair?
What if it fails? Will anyone care?

Could it end in a coma or perhaps in a stroke?
Will someone be with me?
Will I burden my folks?

So many visitors, yet I'm alone
Some of them linger, some of them stay
Most of them tell me I'll be "OK"

How can they know?
None of them can
Will anyone be here to hold my hand?

Oh, what should I do?
What to decide?
Will anyone come and stand by my side?

Is there a way out?
Some "mistake" in a test?
Overworked doctors in need of a rest?

Perhaps it's an error?
So please double check
To suffer this terror for some lens with a speck
I just wait to hear that it's not too late
Perhaps I needn't suffer this uncommon fate

Why me? Why me?
Is it for sins I atone?
Or for some grave past, I must die alone?

Oh, what to do?
Oh, what to decide?
How from fear and death can I hide?

You've heard my concern, but not my cry
You've answered my questions and not my why
No comfort here, just treatment and dope
I'm not afraid, I know I will die
Something is missing—how will I cope?

Oh, what to do?
Oh, what to decide?

■ **Dr. Quintero** is a family physician and assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health at the Florida State University College of Medicine.

What My Doctor Tells Me

Stephen Quintero, MD

You're very sick

llip ruoy ekat ot tegrof t'noD
shtnom eerht ni kcab emoC
neht erofeb nward doolb ruoy evaH
stset ruoy erofeb knird ro tae t'noD
llip tsrif ruoy htiw doof diova ot deen uoY
doof htiw enicidem dnoces ruoy ekat tub
su llac htaerb fo trohs ro hguoc teg uoy fl

You're very sick

taht ytiralugerrri elttil a evah snacs ruoY
pu dewollof eb ot sdeeN
tsigolonircodne eht ot uoy dnes ot deen eW
ecnarusni evah uoy oD
drawrof dneb ro tfil t'nac uoY

You're very sick