Questions to Ask Your Doctor



Before Breast Surgery

Your treatment options depend on many factors, such as your age, tumor stage and estrogen receptor (ER) status. Deciding on your treatment plan is a personal matter as well as a medical one. Your treatment should be based on the risks and benefits and how these relate to your personal values and lifestyle.

Answer to these questions will help you prepare for your surgery.

your surgery.	
Q: A:	What type of surgery do you recommend for me and why?
Q:	If I choose breast reconstruction, can it be done at the time of surgery, as well as later? Will you refer me to a reconstructive surgeon before my surgery?
Q:	How long will I be in the hospital? Will I need someone to help me when I go home from the hospital?
Q:	How should I expect to feel after the operation? What limitations will I have on my normal activities? Will my daily routine be affected?

Q: A:	Where will the surgical scar(s) be located? Will my breast(s) feel any different after the surgery? Will I have less feeling in my breast?
Q:	Will I have a surgical drain (tube that drains fluid from the breast) in place when I go home? If so, how will I care for it? When will it be removed?
Q: A:	When should I return for a follow-up appointment?
Q: A:	When will I find out my results of the surgery (pathology)?
Q:	What side effects might I have after surgery (i.e., pain, tenderness, bruising, scarring, numbness)? Which ones should I tell you about?
Q:	What is my risk of having long-term problems or side effects from my surgery?
Q:	Will I need any other treatments? If so, which ones and how long after surgery will they start?



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not provide medical advice.