



Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Breast Surgery

Before Breast Surgery

1. What surgery options do you suggest for me and why?
2. Will some or all of my lymph nodes (located under the arm) be removed? Why? What is a sentinel node biopsy?
3. How long will I be in the hospital? Will I need help when I get home?
4. How might I feel after the surgery? When will I be able to go back to my normal, daily activities?
5. Will my breast(s) look and feel different after surgery?
6. Will my breasts have sensation after the surgery?
7. Will I have a drain (tube that removes fluid from the breast) in place when I go home? If so, how will I care for it? When will it be removed?
8. When will I find out the results of the surgery?
9. When should I return to see you after surgery?
10. What side effects might I have after surgery (i.e., pain, tenderness, bruising, scarring, numbness)? Which ones should I report to you? Will any of the side effects be long term?
11. Will I need any other treatments? If so, which ones and how long after surgery will they start?
12. If I choose to have breast reconstruction, when will it be done? Will you refer me to a reconstructive surgeon?
13. If I choose not to have reconstruction, what are my options?
14. Will I need a breast form (prosthesis), and if so, where can I get one?
15. Will the surgery effect my ability to breast feed?



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After Breast Surgery

1. What things should I avoid doing after surgery?
2. Will my tumor be saved? Where will it be stored? For how long? How can it be accessed in the future?
3. When will I be able to do my normal activities?
4. What problems should I report to you? What pain or discomfort is normal? How can I treat pain?
5. How often should I return to see you? What tests will be done and why? When should I have my next mammogram?

If you had lymph nodes removed from under your arm - ask the following:

1. What should I do to help protect my arm after surgery? Should I avoid having blood drawn or shots in this arm?
2. What is lymphedema? Am I at risk for it? Can I prevent it? If not, how is it treated?
3. What exercises should I do? What should I avoid?