

SURGICAL PROCEDURES: Questions to Ask Your Doctor

As your partner in health, no one knows your health history, your family and the “whole you” better than your primary care doctor. When a specialist suggests that you need surgery, you should know that your primary care doctor is in your corner and available to discuss the benefits and risks, and most important who should perform your surgery based on quality and outcomes.

We ask our patients to actively participate in their healthcare and ask questions during their visit by printing this sheet and bringing it to your appointment with the surgeon, knowing you can always ask your primary care doctor to help you as well. If you are not sure you understand the answer, please ask the surgeon to explain it.

- Why do I need the surgery?
- Are there other ways to treat my condition?
- How many surgeries like this have you (the surgeon) done before?
- What is the best hospital for this surgery? Why?
- What do I need to do to prepare for the surgery?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- What will my recovery be like?
- Will I need special help at home? If yes, for how long?
- How long before I can resume everyday activities?
- What will happen if I don't have this surgery or I delay it?

NOTES:
